NMC launches online registration. » PAGE 5

Two men allegedly beat up, rob taxi driver. » PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

75¢

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WELCOME SIGHT
After breaking ground on Nov. 6, 2014, Ironwood Saipan, an 80-unit apartment complex project along Middle Road, is now about 15 percent complete, according to Tom Nielsen, president of Maeda Pacific Corp., which is the contractor for the project. The apartment complex's target completion date is October 2015.
JAYSON CAMACHO

LEAC rate goes down a 3rd time

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

As expected, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. cut its LEAC rate once again—the third time this year—to reflect the continued decline in fuel prices.

Effective yesterday, the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC rate, which accounts for 70 percent of power bills, was reduced, resulting in a drop of 1.55 cents per kWh.

"CUC announces a reduction in the LEAC fuel charge pass-through, due to continued decline in average fuel prices. CUC is able to reduce the LEAC rate by 6.16 percent," CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said in a statement yesterday.

The LEAC rate of $.25168 per kWh will go down to $.23616 per kWh.

The average residential account using 500 kWh will see a decrease in their bill of about $18.67 per month.

The first time CUC dropped its LEAC rate this year was on Sept. 8, from $.30426 per kWh to $.28902 kWh. CUC again reduced its LEAC rate on Nov. 2, from $.28902 per kWh to $.25168 per kWh.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission allowed CUC in July this year to adjust the LEAC charge every month, instead of

See LEAC on Page 4

Motions to dismiss Tinian election contest under advisement

» If evidentiary hearing will push through today, parties list 41 witnesses

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has placed under advisement Tinian mayor-elect Joey Patrick San Nicolas' and Commonwealth Election Commission's separate motions to dismiss the election contest filed by incumbent Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz.

If the evidentiary hearing pushes through today, Wednesday, at the Tinian Superior Court, it is expected to be all-day proceeding, if not longer, as the parties listed 41 witnesses.

The evidentiary hearing will be about Dela Cruz's claims of irregularities: felony voters, double voting, and lack of ballot control.

San Nicolas

At yesterday's motions hearing, Chief Prosecutor Brian Flaherty argued as counsel for CEC, while attorney Matthew Gregory argued for San Nicolas. Attorney Mark B. Hanson argued Dela Cruz's opposition to the motions.

In CEC's motion, Flaherty argued, among other things, that Dela Cruz has failed to demonstrate actual prejudice; has failed to prosecute his eligible voter challenge as provided by law;

See ELECTION on Page 4

Bill providing regs for handguns prefiled

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Reyes

Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (Ind-Saipan) has prefiled a bill that will regulate handguns in the Commonwealth in anticipation of the U.S. District Court possibly shooting down the Commonwealth Weapons Control Act.

Reyes' Senate Bill 18-69, prefiled last Oct. 16, is a measure "to provide for the possession and management of firearms in the Commonwealth."

The Commonwealth Weapons Control Act has been challenged in the courts and Reyes said the CNMI is now faced with a difficult decision—whether to fight a costly legal battle with little or no prospect of success or move

See HANDGUNS on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The Judiciary holds its first Mock Trial Academy for high school students.
» PAGE 13

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
A new book details the secrets to a successful remodeling.
» PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLE
Susan Boyle finally gets her first boyfriend—at age 53.
» PAGE 21

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Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway.

Local

CPA lays out rules for military exercises at all CNMI airports

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has for the first time set in place an implementation plan for all proposed military exercises at CPA airports. The plan details "conditions that have to be met" during military exercises on CPA property, according to CPA's executive director Maryann Lizama yesterday.

Lizama described the plan as "taking care" of facilities while keeping in line with their work with the military. The plan details in depth procedures and requirements to be signed off and met by any military branch wishing to conduct operations on CPA grounds.

What measures can CPA take if conditions for an exercise are not met? Bottom line, Lizama said, "the exercise does not occur."

"We want to be able to accommodate the military and their exercises and at the same time protect the interest of our traveling public as well as the facility," she said.

Forager Fury 1, 2, and 3, Geiger Fury, and Cope North exercises have used CPA property in past years, according to Lizama. The plan would cover the whole scope of what these exercises do, she said.

But she clarified that the proposed military buildup on Tinian is an "entirely different ball game." This plan would be "specific to exercises," she said.

"After action" reports have detailed in the past minor damage to CPA property, she said. But no structural damage has been reported and they have not come to the point where they have had to stop an exercise from occurring, she said.

She believes both the CPA and the military have to "meet in the middle" to satisfy both their interests.

The plan was approved by the CPA board last week as an official CPA regulation. No formal plan had existed prior to this, according to legal counsel Robert Torres in the board meeting. He said the plan "came out of necessity and frustration" but ultimately was put together with the Federal Aviation Administration and reviewed by the Joint Region Marianas, and governs the military use of a CPA facility.

Torres said that in a past exercise, a "disturbing example" left by the military was fuel bladder set near the Tinian Westfield Airport. He said this not only concerned CPA but the Division of Environmental Quality and the FAA Air Traffic Control as well.

"This is not in the jungles of Northfield, this is our airport… We had to bring in some controls and this is where we are, and now they operate on this paradigm," he said.

Lizama confirmed yesterday that the fuel bladder was placed in close proximity to the terminal and was highlighted in an "after action" report. She said the military was told that they had to "put that fuel bladder farther away" when the next exercise happens.

"The document itself was a work in progress throughout all the exercises," she said, describing it as a "learning process" for both sides.

The four overarching principles in the plan, according to Torres, are to address issues of safety, liability, scope of the operations, and address the issues of balancing civilian use of aircraft/airports.

Among other requirements, the plan requires standard operating procedures that detail the type, duration, description of movement, and location of proposed military exercises, to be submitted no later than 60 days before the actual training.

The FAA would review this standard operating procedure and, when approved, CPA would require ground operation, implementation, and acknowledgement forms to be signed off by the military within a seven-day deadline.

The plan does not apply to foreign military or commercial aircraft contracted by the U.S. Department of Defense. This would allow CPA to charge fees on foreign or commercial units participating or aiding in U.S. military exercises.

The plan also requires also a "Military Operation Facilities Impact Report." The report would describe the number, weight and type of military or civilian-contracted take-off and landings during military exercises.

This would enable CPA to monitor the level of use of its facilities, and would allow CPA to seek reimbursement—as authorized by the FAA—once certain usage levels have been met.

SIDEBAR

Military's reservation of rights for Tinian airport remains a question

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Defense should have a good answer to the question of what exact rights it has to the Tinian West Field airport in light of its interest in building on the CPA property to support its military activities there.

Defense would like CPA to submit an airport layout plan to the Federal Aviation Administration inclusive of its plans to build a parallel runway, an air traffic control tower, power and waste management facilities, fuel storage facilities, and other infrastructure at the Tinian airport.

But Defense has made their "exact rights to use West Field…less than perfectly clear," according to a memorandum to the CPA board by executive director Maryann Lizama after a meeting with an FAA/DOD working group in November.

Saipan Tribune learned that the military reserved certain rights to the airfield when the airport property was leased back to CPA. This matter was discussed in a Commonwealth Ports Authority board meeting last week.

Board member Benigno Sablan said during discussion that the United States "have all the rights" when it comes to national security issues but pointed to the CNMI Covenant as the legal authority CPA's legal counsels should look at in ensuring that CNMI interests are protected.

"If things of this nature occur up here, we have very little authority to change what the national government of the United States wants to do…So the legal authority you guys should be helping us look for is under the Covenant where the federal government can't take away land…from the CNMI," he said.

DOD's leasehold interest in the CPA property was purchased back by the CNMI many years ago.

In 1994 the CNMI and the U.S. agreed to revise the leaseback, both agreeing that the U.S. did not need approximately 1,245 acres of the land leased to the U.S. This land consists of the San Jose harbor area on Tinian and all of the land between the harbor and West Field.

Because the U.S. had already paid rent for that property, the CNMI paid back in essence approximately $2.6 million so that the CNMI could develop the property, but the U.S. reserved some rights to the harbor.

See MILITARY on Next Page

Kilili wants territories united when FMAP expires in 2019

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he wants all U.S. territories to form a united front with regards to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages on Medicaid.

"I want to work with delegates from Guam, American Samoa, and Virgin Islands to push for our joined-in-the-hips issue on the FMAP issue on Medicaid. While right now we're 45-55, sometimes because of the adjustments new enrollees are covered by federal 70 and local is lower 30s and upper 20s," he said.

FMAP are the percentage rates used to determine the matching funds rate allocated annually to certain medical and social service programs in the U.S.

Aside from Sablan, who won a fourth term in the Nov. 4 general elections, incoming nonvoting delegates from U.S. territories in the 114th U.S. Congress include Madeleine Bordallo of Guam, Stacey Plaskett of the Virgin Islands, and Aumua Amata of American Samoa.

The CNMI nonvoting delegate said he needs to work with his three colleagues on the Medicaid issue and hopefully will get the support of other representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"We need to start looking at 2019 when the monies for the CNMI and our colleagues from the territories expire. That's something we have to start as early as possible. We just got an assurance from New Jersey congressman Frank LoBiondo that he will help us in our effort."

The number of Medicaid clients in the CNMI has climbed to nearly 15,000 individuals in fiscal year 2014, according to CNMI Department of Public Health's Medicaid Office administrator Helen Sablan.

She said a total of 14,856 applicants and their dependents applied for Medicaid benefits covering the period from Oct. 1, 2013, to Sept. 24, 2014. Of this number of applications, only a total of 5,589 were approved.

FMAP eligible programs are joint federal-state partnerships between the federal government of the United States and state governments, which are administered by the states. Thus

Funds that are eligible for FMAP match include Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) expenditures, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Contingency Funds, the Federal share of Child Support Enforcement collections, and Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds of the Child Care and Development Fund. ***(Mark Rabago)***

CONTRABAND ITEMS MARK RABAGO

Customs Lt. Jessie Atalig, left, and Customs Seaport manager Capt. Greg Sablan handle the smuggled liquor and cigarettes found inside a 20-foot cargo container during a news briefing at the Division Customs office in Puerto Rico last Monday. Division of Customs director Jose C. Mafnas said a total of 234 cases of liquor and 1,180 cartons of cigarettes were confiscated from the supplier.

MILITARY

From Page 2

In 1999, as a result of the CNMI's desire to improve West Field and as a result of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's habitat protection actions concerning the Tinian Monarch, the CNMI and U.S. agreed to revise the leaseback agreement so that West Field could be considered surplus property and no longer needed for defense-related purposes.

The U.S. gave up its rights to West Field, but reserved certain "temporary" training rights to use West Field in a manner that would not interfere with or suspend civil aviation activities.

At the time these revisions and reservation of rights were negotiated, the proposed live fire training ranges on Tinian were not envisioned or planned, which now leaves a clash between what DOD would like to do at the airport, with what they agreed to when the reservation of rights were created.

The DOD has proposed two phases for the ALP. The first is an "expeditionary ALP" for a temporary facility from 2016 to 2021. The second is an "end-state ALP" from 2012 and beyond.

UFO readies for election this Saturday

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization will be electing new officers this Saturday at the Don Pedro Restaurant across the Mobil gas station on Middle Road in Garapan. The meeting will start at 7pm.

UFO president Annamae Adaza said they are calling all Filipino organizations on the island to join the election and for each organization to send at least five representatives as voting delegates to elect the new UFO officers.

"We will be electing a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, auditor, and press relation officer, including assistants and chairpersons for committees by appointment," Adaza said yesterday.

About 12 active Filipino organizations fall under the umbrella of the UFO.

Adaza will step down as president of UFO in a few days and she hopes whoever will be the next president would sustain the organization's existing programs and come up with new ones as well.

Adaza said that being UFO's president in the past year has been a very challenging job.

"During my time it was very challenging because that is when we started assisting the Philippine Consulate General. It was both challenging and tiring but also a rewarding experience," Adaza said, who wished luck to the organization's next officers.

For more information on the election of officers for UFO, contact UFO secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021.

Rota delegation OKs $9K for allowance of dialysis patients

The Rota Legislative Delegation passed a bill yesterday appropriating $9,000 from local license fees for poker and pachinko and slot machines for the subsistence allowance of residents of the island who are undergoing dialysis and treatment for terminal illnesses off-island.

House Local Bill 18-67 passed on two yes votes, one abstention, and one absence. The lawmakers that voted affirmatively to the measure were Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota). Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) abstained, while Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) was absent.

The bill originally sought to earmark only $4,500 for the subsistence allowance of the patients, but after careful review the delegation found out that more people needed help for their illnesses, hence the doubling of the appropriation.

Under the bill, "The monthly subsistence allowance for September 2014 shall be partially paid and not to exceed $200.00" and the expenditure authority will the Department of Finance.

The bill's author and Rota Legislative Delegation chair, Santos, said at last count there are nearly 40 people from Rota currently undergoing dialysis and suffering from other terminal illnesses.

Santos, who will be a first-time senator in the 19th CNMI Legislature come January 2015, said "the introduction of bills like HLB 18-67 occurs only when renewal of poker fees are paid which appropriation primarily provides funds for dialysis and terminally ill patients."

The bill now goes to Gov. Eloy S. Inos' desk for approval or veto. ***(Mark Rabago)***

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Christmas in the Marianas kicks off this Saturday

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The annual "Christmas in the Marianas" kicks off this Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas, spreading the holiday joy with weekly entertainment for the community and tourists.

The event will be held every Saturday—Dec. 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Various organizations, including the Marianas Visitors Authority, KKMP, Pacific Development Inc., Paseo de Marianas Promoters Inc., Marianas Walking Association and other key partners are inviting the community to visit the tourist district every Saturday.

PDM coordinator Sonia Siwa said they will be hosting different events to show the holiday spirit and joy of the CNMI.

This Saturday, the event will kick off at 5:30pm and will feature a Christmas tree decoration contest, a Christmas light-up countdown, holiday entertainment, and the Saipan Awaodori Team.

On Dec. 13, there will be a Christmas caroling contest and announcement of the Christmas tree and decoration contest winners. Dec. 20 will be the MWA 5-kilometer Christmas Health Walk, Christmas Costume Show, a Christmas parade from the Carolinian Village to Paseo with a float contest, and stage entertainment from 6pm to 9pm.

On the last day—Dec. 27—there will be a Mochitsuki Exhibition, announcement of caroling, costume and float contest winners, and live entertainment from various dance groups.

Food and drink vendors will be involved on all four Saturdays.

In related news, Siwa said that Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota and the Tinian Elementary School will be joining the various schools on Saipan in an art contest.

"We want these kids to be part of the Christmas event. This year we received 96 drawing entries from Rota and 97 entries from Tinian," Siwa said.

Ex-convict arrested again, this time for allegedly kicking girl

Mario O. Sablan, a 38-year-old ex-convict who is still on probation for theft, was arrested again over the weekend, this time for allegedly kicking a 15-year-old girl in the jaw and stomach.

During Monday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho increased the $1,000 cash bail the court earlier set to $5,000.

Sablan was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections for assault and battery.

Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 10.

Police detective Norman L. Skilling stated in his report that two police officers responded to an assault and battery incident at a residence in Lower Miha housing in Garapan on Sunday morning.

While officers were interviewing the girl at the Tourism Oriented Policing Section office in Lower Miha, Sablan and his common-law wife came, looking for the teenager.

Police then arrested Sablan.

Skilling said that Sablan and his common-law wife had an argument earlier that morning, angering the teenager who then threw an iPad cover at him. The common-law wife told the girl not to intervene.

Sablan later allegedly kicked the girl in the left jaw and stomach. The girl ran to her grandmother's house, where her uncle called the police. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero talks with Chief Prosecutor Brian Flaherty and attorneys Mark Hanson and Matthew Gregory outside the courtroom of Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja shortly after a hearing yesterday afternoon on two motions to dismiss Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz's election contest.

ELECTION

From Page 1

and lacks evidence to support his claims of irregularity or misconduct.

Flaherty asserted that Dela Cruz's claim that seven ineligible voters were allowed to vote should be dismissed for want of prosecution due to its untimely nature.

He pointed out that Public Law 17-11 clearly spells out a process for challenging a voter's eligibility—a process that must be initiated before or on election day.

Flaherty said it is the responsibility of CEC to strike the names of felon voters when notified or given certification by the court.

He said Dela Cruz has access to the information on CEC's registered voters, yet he did not challenge the voters on the Tinian rolls prior or on the election day as provided by law.

The Tinian people, he pointed out, should be proud because they saw how CEC operates during Monday's recount of votes.

At the recounting, San Nicolas still prevailed over Dela Cruz, this time by nine votes, 705-696.

San Nicolas of the Republic Party won by seven votes, 703-696, over Dela Cruz (Independent) during the first counting of votes. CEC has already certified that initial result.

In San Nicolas' motion, Gregory said the Legislature obviously wanted to fix an election problem that happened in 2009 by coming with Public Law 17-11. He pointed out that the proper procedure for an election contest is to bring up the issue before or on election day.

He said the Legislature set up the procedures for an election contest.

"You're supposed to attack voter qualifications on the day of the election or before," he said.

He said that by laying out different deadlines for voter qualification tests at the time of election and ones for an election contest, the Legislature intended to foreclose the consideration of voter qualification contests in an election contest.

"This is in keeping with the intent of the Legislature to prevent a repeat of the 2009 election contests involving questioning voters about their secret ballot," he said.

At this point, Gregory said, there's no way to determine that the seven individuals that Dela Cruz's questioned voted for San Nicolas or the mayor.

Gregory said Dela Cruz's election contest should be barred for being untimely and should be dismissed.

He said Public Law 7-11 clearly removes the court's jurisdiction in this election contest.

Gregory said Dela Cruz seeks to characterize his claim as an attack on voting procedure and not voter qualifications.

"The complaint, however, tells a different story," he said.

In Dela Cruz's opposition to the motions, Hanson said CEC's actions and inaction, particularly with regard to the Tinian election, marred the political process and undermined the belief of the people of Tinian in a fair and democratic election.

Hanson said it is from those flaws that the court will discern that the only available remedy is a new election.

Hanson said CEC is a proper defendant when a voter challenges its conduct of an election.

Hanson said Dela Cruz properly challenges CEC's failure to purge the voter registration lists of ineligible voters "serving a sentence for a felony."

The lawyer cited that the Commonwealth Constitution and the Commonwealth Code recognize that any person "serving a sentence for a felony cannot vote."

Public Law 17-11 made numerous changes to the Commonwealth election law, he said, but these changes did not alter a court's jurisdiction to provide mandamus relief.

Hanson said San Nicolas' motion refuses to recognize that however the Legislature has amended the election law, the law still provides for election contests that are not challenges to voter registration.

Hanson said San Nicolas also "attempts to boot strap" the actual facts of Dela Cruz's complaint to fit his voter challenge exhaustion argument.

Hanson said CEC is the "gatekeeper of fairness" and that it should not take a backseat by sitting down and waiting for people to file a complaint.

Hanson described CEC's action as a "cavalier attitude" and said the election process is broken and the court should do something.

"There's no way to say who was really elected on Tinian. We don't know how many other felons voted," he said, adding that 42 percent of Tinian voters cast their votes off-island.

Hanson said procedural errors led to complete doubt on the election results.

In CEC's rebuttal, Flaherty said all humans commit mistake and that if there's error, "they do not rise to cavalier attitude."

On the contrary, Flaherty said, the court and the people of Tinian saw how CEC operates during the recounting of votes.

HANDGUNS

From Page 1

forward in conformance with the Second Amendment.

"The Legislature finds that it is not in the best interest of the Commonwealth to wage an expensive legal battle that cannot be won. Therefore, the Legislature finds that it is in the best interests of the Commonwealth to enact comprehensive legislation for the regulation and control of firearms ammunition in the Commonwealth," SB 18-69 reads.

The bill seeks to amend some parts of the current statute as well as add new sections. For example, a new section will be created under "Firearms Excise Tax" that recognizes that "the Department of Public Safety will require a significant increase in its funding due to the proliferation of firearms in the Commonwealth."

Under this section, a tax of $1,000 will be imposed upon the manufacturer, producer, or importer of any pistol, shotgun, and rifle save for any .410 shotgun and .22 caliber rim fire rifle.

Under the section "Weapons Control," the bill details the Firearms Owner's Identification Card requirement and its exceptions.

It states that no person can "acquire or possess" any firearms or ammunition within the Commonwealth without having a Firearms Owner's Identification Card that is issued by DPS.

Those exempted from the Firearms Owner's Identification Card requirement include, among others, U.S. Marshals, members of the U.S. Armed Forces and National Guard, and members of bona fide veteran organizations.

Under the bill, applicants for the Firearms Owner's Identification Card must be 21 years old or older, not addicted to narcotics, not been a patient of a mental facility within the past five years, not intellectually disabled, not an alien unlawfully present in the U.S., not been convicted of violating an order of protection or not a subject of an existing order of protection, not currently facing charges for an act of violence or an act involving a firearm, and had not been convicted within 10 years prior to the application, among others.

The bill also calls for would-be gun owners to undergo a background check, safety training requirement, and a written safety test. The bill states that the Firearms Owner's Identification Card will be valid for five years.

David J. Radich, a U.S. Navy Gulf War veteran, and his wife have filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court challenging the constitutionality of the CNMI Weapons Control Act after Radich's wife suffered serious injuries during a home invasion on Saipan in 2010.

The CNMI Weapons Control Act prohibits all residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes.

LEAC

From Page 1

every six months, which will allow CUC to adjust monthly pricing based on the "Means of Platts Singapore" or MOPS' monthly pricing.

LEAC is one of two components of a customer's power bill. LEAC accounts for fuel purchases while the second component—electric base rate—is used to fund CUC's operations, projects, and debt servicing.

"CUC is encouraged by the continued downward trend in the oil markets, noting that since September 2014 consumers have experienced an approximate 23 percent decline in the LEAC. We are hopeful the markets continue this trend as the reduction in fuel prices directly translate into lower power bills, a welcome relief for consumers," Fletcher said.

Hardt elected chairman of revived NCD Alliance

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

JAYSON CAMACHO

Various stakeholders come together to revive the Non-Communicable Disease Alliance yesterday at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club to address the increasing incidences of non-communicable diseases in the island community. Seen in photo are members and the new officers: (from left to right, front row, seated) treasurer Diana Camacho, secretary Marian Tudela, chairman Dr. Don Hardt, vice chair Gary Sword, and NCDA ex-officio Kaitlyn Nieses.

Alarmed by the near-epidemic rate of non-communicable diseases in the Commonwealth, stakeholder from various organizations and government agencies met yesterday morning at the Pacific Islands Club's Napu Room to revive the Non-Communicable Disease Alliance.

Rebecca Robles, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health NCD Bureau administrator said the alliance aims to beef up efforts to bring down the rate of non-communicable diseases on the islands.

"The CNMI is still struggling to address the epidemic of non-communicable diseases and the complex factors that contribute to their high prevalence. So what we want to do is how can we raise a better and stronger awareness in the community," Robles said.

She noted that the top five leading chronic diseases in the CNMI—all of which causes death and disability—are cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, renal disease, and diabetes. This does not even take into account other NCDs being seen in the CNMI, she added.

Health officials emphasized the urgent need to adopt changes in people's lifestyle to combat the spread of NCDs, particularly since traditional ways and practices of islanders contribute more to these NCDs, hence awareness of NCDs is a must.

Poor education about health issues and people's lack of accessibility to a healthy food supply were also blamed for the escalating rate of NCDs in the Commonwealth.

Among the potential methods cited for people to be educated about these issues is the promotion of physical activity and reaching out through the media, restaurants, and other key players.

"Addressing these concerns to the public is of utmost importance so that people would understand about the high rates of NCDs here in the CNMI, that is why the [Alliance] is very important because a bigger group would be better," Robles said.

First step

With the revival of the Non-Communicable Disease Alliance, the group elected its initial batch of officers, with Hardt Eye Clinic's Dr. Don Hardt elected chairman.

In an interview after the meeting, Hardt said: "I just want to help so many people, especially to raise awareness of diabetes here because it needs to be better. So I want to help for everyone to be better."

Other elected NCDA officers are Gary Sword of KKMP as vice chairman, Marian Tudela of Food and Nutrition Assistance Program as secretary, Diana Camacho of Ayuda Network as treasurer, and Kaitlyn Nieses of CHCC as ex-officio officer.

It was decided that the officers would meet at various times and hold meetings with key representatives from the NCDA members and form a better structure as its first step.

Other stakeholders are CHCC, DPH, NAP, the Public School System, media groups, Hardt Eye Clinic, Northern Marianas College-CREES, Commonwealth Cancer Association, Rota Health Center, Kagman Community Health Center, Staywell, Tinian Health Center, Division of Youth Services, CHCC-Community Guidance Center, Marianas Health Services, DPH-Let's Move Marianas, CNMI Diabetes Coalition, disability stakeholders, community members, and other organizations.

NMC launches online registration

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time in its history, ongoing students at the Northern Marianas College can now register online from any computer with Internet access. The new service, called Power Campus Selfservice, is part of an online portal that will also provide students with others services, according to the college.

» Online registration for ongoing NMC students starts today

"This is a great day for the college and especially for the students, who will have more immediate and convenient access to key services and information," said NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart in a statement. She said the college would continue to look for ways to further expand its student services by maximizing technology.

The college expects the portal to shorten registration times to several minutes as opposed to the long lines of manual registration in previous semesters. Students still are expected to meet with their respective academic advisers, however.

The system is being launched just in time for the spring 2015 semester.

Sumech San Nicolas, a business administration major at the college, said registration for classes has always been a "big hassle" in the past. Now, she hopes to register within minutes "without having to stand in long lines or taking time off from work," she said.

She said the new portal allows students to easily see which classes have already been filled "so we can take other classes sections."

In addition to allowing students to register for classes online, the new online portal will allow students to view their schedule, see their personal information, grades, unofficial transcript and financial information. An online payment feature will be added in the near future, according to the college.

Online registration for ongoing NMC students will begin today, Dec. 3, 2014, with the following schedule:

- Dec. 3-14: For seniors, graduate students, and DSS students;
- Dec. 15-21: For juniors/seniors;
- Dec. 22-28: For sophomores, juniors, and seniors; and
- Dec. 28-Jan. 16, 2015: For all ongoing students.

More information about spring 2015 registration will be posted on the NMC website. NMC's online registration brings the college in step with many colleges and universities nationally who have similar online capacity.

WORLD RESORT
SAIPAN

REQUEST FOR BID

With the growth of the tourism market and launching of new flights to Saipan in 2014, the Foreign Independent Tour (FIT) market is also experiencing a growth. Saipan World Resort, in order to provide a diversified comprehensive service to our guests, is issuing this Request for Bid to all interested tour operators in Saipan to operate an option tour desk in the hotel premises for our FIT guests.

1. Contents for Bid
The bid is to operate an option tour desk in the lobby of the Saipan World Resort, to provide tour services exclusively to the FIT guests of Saipan World Resort. The winning bidder must be able to provide all variety of tour services available in Saipan, including rental cars. The winning bidder may operate their own tours and services or outsource those tour services to other operators license to provide those services in the CNMI, at their discretion.

The tour operator will provide tour information, perform sales of tour services, provide after care service, including care services in the event of any accidents.

2. Qualification for Bidding
Any bidding response to this request must be from an entity duly licensed to operate a tour / travel agency in the CNMI.

3. Selection
The highest bid amount will receive the right to first review.

4. Bid Submission and Deadline
- Deadline: December 10, 2014 (Wednesday) at 2:00 PM
- Submission location: Saipan World Resort office, Susupe Village (Director in Charge: Juko Ishikawa (670) 234-5900 ex. 269)
- Bid Proposal: Written business proposal required, signed by the authorized representative of the company. No specific form or format is required, but please be as specific and detailed as possible.
- The following information / attachments must included in the proposal:
  - Information / attachments related to qualification of bidding, including but not limited to, copies of any and all licenses and permits to operate a tour service in the CNMI; operations plan, including tour service operations, outsourcing plan (including car rentals); and other information and document attachments related to tour operations.
  - Tour desk operations information, including but not limited to, tour desk operation hours, staffing plan (staff must, at the very minimum, be able to provide services in the English language), insurance plan, and other related information / document attachments.
  - Bidding price information. Saipan World Resort will charge a monthly rental fee for the use of the space for a tour desk and parking lot spaces for rental cars.

5. Bid Selection Process
The bidder proposing the highest amount for the monthly rental shall be selected as the contractor candidate. Saipan World Resort shall request additional material related to licensing, insurance and subcontractors from the contractor candidate within a deadline listed below. Saipan World Resort shall review the proposal and the additional material before deciding whether to offer the candidate the rental contract.

All additional material requested by Saipan World Resort must be submitted by December 17, 2014 (Wednesday) at 2:00 PM. A security deposit of 2 months proposed monthly rental must be submitted to Saipan World Resort by December 19, 2014 (Friday) at 14:00 PM.

In the event that Saipan World Resort decides not to offer a contract to the winning contractor after the review process or in the event that the contractor candidate fails to comply with the above deadlines, the next highest bidder will be selected as a contractor candidate, and identical selection process will be applied.

6. Miscellaneous
- Please be aware that Saipan World Resort will require the contractor to be in possession or obtain before the start of tour desk operations a liability insurance policy covering incidents for all tour services offered by the tour desk.
- The tour desk will be located on the 1st floor lobby of Saipan World Resort and the rental car parking shall be at the hotel parking lot in locations designated by the hotel. The tour operator may post signages and markings for their business operations, but the tour operator must receive prior approval from Saipan World Resort for all designs and location of signages.
- The tour operator shall only accommodate FIT guests of Saipan World Resort from the tour desk. The tour operator shall not operate or promote the tour desk for any other clientele.
- Saipan World Resort shall designated discount rates / prices for SWR (Hanwha Resort) members, and the tour operator agrees to follow such discount rates / prices for their sales to those members.
- For any questions regarding the bid submissions, please forward such questions to the following persons:
  - Juko Ishikawa, Director of Operations, at (670) 234-5900, ex. 269
  - Michael Babauta, Sales & Marketing Manager, at (670) 234-5900, ex.553

Man pleads not guilty to child porn charge

Vincent M. Songsong, a man arrested by federal agents last week for allegedly having in his possession a laptop that contained child pornographic materials, pleaded not guilty yesterday.

Songsong, who appeared with court-appointed counsel Colin Thompson, pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with one count of child pornography.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the jury trial for Feb. 2, 2015.

Manglona granted Thompson's motion to continue the detention hearing in order for the defense to adequately prepare for the proceedings.

The detention hearing will be held on Dec. 15, 2014, at 10am.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton appeared for the government at the hearing.

After the hearing, Songson was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

According to the indictment, from Feb. 17, 2014, until Feb. 25, 2014, Songsong knowingly possessed a laptop computer containing visual depiction of a child less than 12 years old engaging in sex. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Negative ads no place in island elections

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Negative or attack ads were generally unappreciated by the electorate not only during the 2014 general elections but more so during the frenzied final days before the runoff election for governor when things started to become personal.

Integrity Communications owner Catherine Perry said while she agrees with most campaigns when it comes to full disclosure of a candidate's weaknesses, there's such a thing as going too far.

"The electorate deserves to know the truth, but the truth is never meant to be wielded like a weapon to recklessly stab people. Respect is important, and the truth can always be presented with respect, even if the other side does not reciprocate."

She added that negative ads are actually not effective for an educated voter.

"As for outright lies in a campaign, the best way for a voter to spot a lie is to know the truth. But finding the truth can be hard work; most of us are too lazy, so we accept what others spoon-feed us even though it may be based on half the truth or outright fabrications," said Perry. "We like to forget there are at least two sides to every story, and we are too quick to believe the sensational. Attack ads based on lies will have little effect on the voters if we are critical thinkers and commit to openly and earnestly seeking the truth for ourselves."

A local couple interviewed by the *Saipan Tribune* during the runoff while they were voting on Capitol Hill said negative ads did not affect their votes.

The 63-year-old man, however, said that attack ads or statements about Gov. Eloy S. Inos' health left a bad taste in the mouth. "They're not only below the belt but under the foot already. Saying that Inos is incapacitated was really bad."

His 56-year-old partner couldn't agree more. "I think the attack on Inos' health was really inappropriate. I have diabetes myself and it doesn't affect me in whatever I'm doing. It's very below the belt."

The two added that Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32nd President of the U.S., was himself handicapped but "was able to perform his work and everybody was proud of him."

A couple of youth, meanwhile, didn't appreciate the attack ads against gubernatorial candidate Heinz Hofschneider. The 20-year-old Dandan resident said those campaign ads went "overboard" and were "very unprofessional."

The 21-year-old from Kagman echoed her friend's concern, adding that campaigns should just stick to the positives in their candidates and not attack their opponents.

For his part, John Iguel said the attack ads during the runoff were "immature" because rather than focus on their candidates' achievements, they instead resorted to dirty politics.

Tanya Concepcion said negative ads make the parties that subscribe to them look petty and bordering on childishness. She said it would be much better for campaigns to present their platforms rather than attack the opposing candidate.

Jason Osborne, the campaign manager of Inos and his running mate, Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres, said the GOP bets ran 98 percent positive ads that talked about their record and what they would strive to accomplish if elected.

"In fact not one of our TV spots mentioned anyone else but our candidates. We ran two contrast ads (Retirement votes taken by our opponents ad and 'Who is qualified to be Governor' ad) during the final two weeks to ensure that the record was clear with regard to our opponents but our two ads used words and/or actionsthat were directly attributed to them. Virtually all of the ads against us were attacks and in our view not worthy of responding to because they had reached the absurd," said Osborne.

Hofschneider-Yumul committee-to-elect chair David Attao, for his part, didn't want to talk about what happened during the campaign and the negative ads. He also appeared ready to extend the olive branch to the GOP.

"It is time for everyone to heal. Time to look back at the good in all of us. Time to cherish the precious memories of loved ones and families. There is no room for negativity. We should all focus our energy into making positive changes that benefit all of us now and for generations to come. We wish everyone the best of health and good tidings," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a message through social media.

Search continues for man missing off Guam beach

TARAGUE BEACH, Guam — Responders from multiple agencies continue their search for a missing person off the northern coast of Guam.

Aircraft, boats, and people were all used in the continued search for an airman reported missing off of Tarague beach. An HSC-25 helicopter and Coast Guard 110-foot patrol boat searched through the night until daybreak yesterday morning.

Yesterday, crews from Guam Fire Rescue, Guam Police Department Marine Unit, Andersen Air Force Base Fire, Andersen Air Force Base Security, Coast Guard cutter *Washington*, and Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor continued their search efforts.

Approximately 60 volunteers from the Air Force assisted in combing the shoreline of Tarague Beach, while swimmers, small boat, and jet skis concentrated on the reef and waters closer to the shore. The helicopter and 110-foot patrol boat searched the waters offshore. Searching was scheduled to continue through last night and Sector Guam will develop plans for coordinating today's efforts.

Updates will be provided as they become available. ***(USCG)***

ETC DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy principal Beth Nunez, right, accepts an ETC donation from James Matsumoto, branch manager of Express Financial. GCA wishes to expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Express Financial for this donation.

Suspect possibly identified in fatal hit-and-run in Guam

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Police say they might have identified the driver of the vehicle that struck and killed three young women and then fled the scene on Saturday.

GPD spokesman AJ Balajadia said, "We do have a person of Interest that we're looking at. Investigators are conducting their interviews and waiting for autopsy results."

However, no arrests have been made just yet.

"We want to make sure that as we release information, we get it right and that we don't violate anyone's personal rights or civil rights and liberties and that we protect the integrity of the investigation," Balajadia explained.

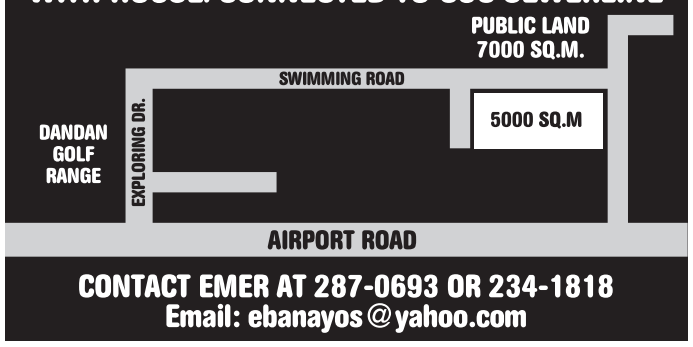
Sharleen Gallen, sister of one of the victims, identified the victims as Cherrica Gallen, 19; Saly Santos, 16; and Julia George, 16. She says the three were part of a group called Star Squad and were the best of friends.

According to Balajadia the suspect vehicle was heading south on Chalan Ramirez and fled the scene after hitting the three victims.

Police were called to the scene at about 4:30am Saturday for three unconscious females lying on the side of the road. The Guam Fire Department conducted CPR on two of the patients at the scene and all three were transported to Guam Memorial Hospital. Upon arrival, two were pronounced dead and later that evening, the last of the victims also passed away.

FOR ASSIGMENT/RENTAL

DANDAN FARM • LAND AREA: 5000 SQ.M
WITH HOUSE/CONNECTED TO CUC SEWERLINE



CONTACT EMER AT 287-0693 OR 234-1818
Email: ebanayos@yahoo.com

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-COTA/FTA-024

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 29, 2014
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF FOUR (4) 2013 OR NEWER MOBILITY EQUIPPED VANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATION FOR THIS PROJECT WIL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **DECEMBER 02, 2014** AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR, NMI RETIREMENT FUND BUILDING, ISA DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT, BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE..

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN ANY PROPOSAL IF IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP15-BECQ/DCRM-006

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 17, 2014 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"TO COMPLETE A WETLANDS RAPID ASSESSMENT METHOD FOR THE CNMI, A PROJECT UNDER THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"

THE **SCOPE OF WORK** IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **NOVEMBER 19, 2014** FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO megan.jungwi@crm.mp.gov.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT CAN BE MADE TO MEGAN JUNGWIWATTANAPORN BY PHONE, (670) 664-8311, OR BY EMAIL AT megan.jungwi@crm.mp.gov, NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **DECEMBER 05, 2014**, CHAMORRO STANDARD TIME, UTC +10 HOURS (EMAIL IS PREFERRED). RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Daniel T. Guidotti
MARIANAS PACIFIC LAW LLC
2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Building
Middle Road, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 506057
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 233-0777
FAX: (670) 233-0776

Court-appointed Trustee

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CHO, SEONG JEO,	)	**CIVIL ACTION**
	)	**NO. 13-0161**
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
-v-	)	
	)	
PARK JAE HYUN, et al.	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Superior Court will hold a hearing to determine claims to surplus funds delivered to the Court arising out of foreclosure of Tract No. H 246 in the above-captioned matter. On September 14, 2014, the Court appointed the Trustee of record, Daniel T. Guidotti of Marianas Pacific Law LLC, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 506057, Saipan, MP 96950 to assist the Court with determining entitlement to the surplus funds.

The hearing in this matter is set for **February 10, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.** in courtroom 220 of the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan.

All persons having claims to these should file their claims with the Trustee and the Superior Court as soon as possible, but in any event, no later than December 31, 2015.

KEEP LAOLAO CLEAN & BEAUTIFUL
USE TRASH & RECYCLING BINS
DRIVE IN DESIGNATED PARKING AREA ONLY - NOT ON THE BEACH
PROTECT CORALS - DO NOT WALK ON OR TAKE
USE PROVIDED BBQ GRILLS - NO BONFIRES

BLATANT VIOLATIONS JOAQUIN P. VILLAGOMEZ

The Laolao Bay ecosystem includes protection of nesting grounds for the endangered marine turtles such hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). However, vehicle traffic still moves freely in the area without any regard to these important nesting grounds. Are responsible agencies aware of these violations?

Inos willing work with Kilili on worker needs of mega projects

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos is ready to work with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) on the expected surge of manpower needs of the Commonwealth once the mega developments of Best Sunshine International Ltd., Alter City Group, and Honest Profit International Ltd. go full throttle in coming years.

Responding to a query from *Saipan Tribune* following pronouncements from Sablan that the CNMI's current population couldn't support Best Sunshine's worker requirements, press secretary Angel Demapan said the Hong Kong-base Best Sunshine has yet to discuss its plans regarding hiring guest workers for the construction phase of their project.

"The administration is under the impression that BSI is aware of all existing federal and local labor statutes and regulations. As such, and with a major undertaking in the wings, the administration is confident that they will address their labor needs in accordance to existing policies," Demapan said. "Nonetheless, Gov. Inos is always willing and ready to work with Congressman Sablan to address any issue related to this matter."

In an interview last Wednesday, Sablan intimated that the islands may not have the 9,000 workers Best Sunshine needs to operate its $7-billion Saipan integrated casino resort.

As it stands, Sablan said, the cap of H workers in the entire U.S. is 65,000 and not all workers Best Sunshine is looking to bring to the CNMI may qualify for H visas.

Best Sunshine's project is not the only mega development in the horizon for the Commonwealth, as Alter City Group is also eyeing a $360-million development on Tinian and Honest Profit International Ltd. is plunking down another $130 million investment for a hotel in San Antonio.

Sablan said an option to recruit foreign workers from China is also out of the question because the U.S. currently has no treaty with China with regards to H workers. He said a special waiver is needed to make that work and such a waiver needs the consent of Congress.

Free workforce training courses at NMC

The Northern Marianas College is urging community members to register for its free Workforce Development Training classes that are being offered as part of the Workforce Development Program aimed at assisting residents learn or sharpen workplace knowledge and skills.

The funding for these courses are made possible from the CW fees that are appropriated to the Northern Marianas College.

The courses include Introduction to Computers; Keyboarding; Fundamentals of the Internet and Email Usage; Introduction to Word Processing Applications; Introduction to Spreadsheet Applications; Creating Effective Digital Presentations; Workforce Ready: Personal and Professional Skills; Customer Service; Workplace Culture and Ethics; Communication in the Workplace; Time and Stress Management; and Getting the Job: Job Search/ Résumé Writing/Job Interviewing Techniques.

"These courses are designed to help residents transition into meaningful and sustainable careers or to help those who are already employed to acquire new skills or enhance existing ones," said David Attao, dean of Administration and Resource Development at NMC. "We are encouraging anyone who is looking for a job or who is looking to enhance their knowledge and skills to register as soon as possible since space is limited."

Registration for the classes has begun; the last day to register is Friday, Dec. 5, 2014. Anyone who is interested in registering can visit the Community Development Institute in NMC's Building D or call 237-6764 or email wdp@marianas.edu.

"The courses are provided at no charge to participants and will be taught by highly experienced and knowledgeable instructors," Attao added. "If you know anyone who can benefit from this training, please tell them about it."

The classes will begin on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014. Orientation will also be on Dec. 9, 2014, at 8:30am in Building Q, Room 2.

All classes will be held at various classrooms and computer labs at NMC's As Terlaje Campus.

The Workforce Development Program is provided as part of NMC's workforce development initiative focusing on providing participants Lead into Future Experiences.

For more information about the program, visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following positions.

Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications

1. Primary responsibility is to promote the company's resort development in Saipan and the company's future businesses in the respective industry;
2. In charge of corporate communications, public relations, reputation management, event management of the Group and executive profiling for the executive management team;
3. Support human resources department to define Group value to assist in future hiring;
4. Responsible for government and community communications programs to establish the Group as the employer of choice in countries where the company operates;
5. Responsible for providing strategic advice on marketing and program planning of the Group;
6. Responsible for strategizing and negotiating with major travel partners, including airlines and travel agencies;
7. Responsible for forming partnerships with television networks, talent management companies and entertainment companies to promote the properties of the Group;
8. Responsible for organizing and monitoring the execution of annual promotion and marketing budget plan;
9. Responsible for collaborating with the executive management team and defining future development strategy;
10. Responsible for working with various management teams and the Board of Directors of the Company to meet development objectives and visions of the Group; and participating in senior management meeting and Board meetings.

Minimum Job Requirements

1. 15 years of experience in corporate communications, reputation management, public relations, marketing, branding and advertising, event operation and property marketing.
2. Master's degree in marketing or communications.
3. Experience in advising corporate executives on workforce strategy and implementation.

Vice President of Talent Management and Development

1. Primary responsibility is to oversee, develop and implement a workforce strategy and plan to support the development of the organization and its objective of operating gaming facilities, integrated resorts and high end hotels in Saipan, CNMI.
2. Responsible for advising corporate executives on the company's business objectives in relation to workforce strategy and development.
3. Responsible for the selection, recruitment, training and development of company employees.
4. Responsible for employee benefits, compensation and management of human resources operations.
5. Responsible for employee performance management and performance review.
6. Responsible for developing and implementing management strategies and programs which are tailored to the company's objectives in the gaming industry and hospitality industry.
7. Responsible for designing and developing the company's organizational culture.
8. Prepare workforce management budgets and monitor expenditures.

Minimum Job Requirements

1. 15 years of experience in accommodation management, financial management and workforce management.
2. 15 years of experience in the hospitality industry including hotels, spas, private clubs, golf clubs, service apartments and restaurants.
3. 15 years of experience in the Hospitality industry holding a top management position.
4. 15 years of experience in advising corporate executives on workforce strategy and implementation.

Salary is commensurate with experience and education. Good salary package and benefits. Please email your complete detailed resume to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following position.

Communications Officer

- Implementing communications strategy defined by SVP Corporate Communications;
- Liaising with internal departments and answering inquiries from media, individuals and other organizations, often via telephone and email;
- Researching, writing, and distributing press releases to media;
- Collating and analyzing media coverage;
- Producing daily news analysis on current affairs on the CNMI;
- preparing and coordinating the production of marketing materials, inclusive but not limited to company brochures, leaflets, website, press kits;
- devising and coordinating photo opportunities;
- organizing events including press events, community projects, inclusive of production of event, coordinating participants and invitees;
- maintaining and updating information on the organization's website;
- managing and updating information and engaging with users on social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook;
- fostering community relations through events such as open days and through involvement in community initiatives;
- other related duties.

Minimum Job Requirements

- College graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, or related field with good command of language proficiency
- 3-4 years working experience in related discipline: publishing, PR and communications
- Ability to write good quality press material
- Good project management and coordination skills
- Sociable and good people's skill
- Fast learner
- Adaptability to multi-cultural environment
- Flexible working hours

Salary is commensurate with experience and education. Please email your complete detailed resume to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase, and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

Century Insurance Company (Guam), Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant (2)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Accounting Supervisor
A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and/or Finance from an accredited college or university with minimum of 3 years work experience in supervisory level, supervising at least 2 associates. CPA board passer and with experience in Property & Casualty Insurance accounting operations is an advantage. Knowledgeable in SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Background in General Insurance Information System (GENIISYS) is a plus. Proficient in analyzing financial statements and must have knowledge in external regulatory reporting requirements. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge in Excel is a must.

Branch Manager
Bachelor's Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, at least 5 years of that as a general or operations manager in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing technical underwriting including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves undertaking of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

System Analyst
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance database and program – GENIISYS and an in-depth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Underwriting and Claims Supervisor
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree plus 5 years of work experience in insurance business particularly in claims, underwriting, and reinsurance. Must also have knowledge, skills and ability to analyze and manipulate enterprise risk management. Must possess above average communication skills, a working knowledge of MS Word and Excel and the insurance software GENIISYS. Must be willing to take cross-functional assignments and adapt to changes necessary for the effective functioning of the organization's business operations.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company (Saipan), Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, December 15, 2014.

Century Insurance Company (Guam), Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Two men allegedly beat up, rob taxi driver

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two men allegedly beat up a taxi driver and robbed him, causing him to crash his car in a jungle near the intersection of Katbon Road in San Vicente on Sunday night.

One suspect, identified as Kid Kyle Osiik Omengkar, was arrested at the scene, while his companion, a certain Damian, ran away.

Omengkar, 22, was arrested for robbery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The victim, Chengzhe Piao, suffered a laceration on the right side of his face. He was robbed of $80 to $100 cash, police said.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio kept the $15,000 cash bail for Omengkar and imposed some conditions, including a third-party custodian and a daily 7pm to 7am curfew.

Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 10 at 9am.

Omengkar was also ordered to appear in court on Jan. 8, 2015, for a pending traffic case.

Police detective Andrew S. Taimanao stated in his report that police officer Travis Hurst responded to an auto crash along Isa Drive in San Vicente on Sunday at 10:21pm.

Piao, who met with Hurst on the side of the road, told Hurst that he had picked up two customers at Nang Ocha Store in San Vicente at 10pm and they told him to drop them off at Fiesta Resort in Garapan.

As Piao was driving down from Nang Ocha Store toward the intersection of Katbon Road and Isa Drive, the two men started punching him, causing the car to crash on the other side of the roadway.

After the crash, the two men took about $80 to $100 from the car's sun visor and fled on foot. He then called the police.

While Hurst was waiting for a tow truck to pull Piao's car from the jungle, he saw two men walking north along the sidewalk on the opposite side of the road. He asked the two what they were doing and where they were coming from.

One, who was later identified as Omengkar, said they were walking to a friend's house. Hurst advised the two to sit on the curb so he could get more information.

Piao then identified Omengkar and his companion as the persons who beat him up and robbed him.

Hurst secured Omengkar in handcuffs, but the other male ran into the jungle. Hurst tried to give chase but slipped on the ground. Omengkar identified his companion as a certain Damian.

Omengkar denied the allegations and stated it was probably Damian who did it because he ran off.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 3, 2002

Private schools wants explanation on fed money from PSS

Informed that they will not be getting federal grant money for 2003 under the No Child Left Behind Law, private schools in the Northern Marianas have demanded that they be given clearer explanation by the Public School System. Board of Education chairman Herman T. Guerrero disclosed that private schools raised the issue with BOE private school representative Scott Norman, who brought up the matter during the board's regular meeting last week. "They're asking why this happened. They want more clarification. But we said we can't do much about it because that's the federal regulation," Guerrero said. He added that some grant rules may change but not this school year.

2 kids hurt in DUI-related crash

Two young passenger-children were injured when a 26-year-old woman, who was allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol, rammed her car into a concrete pillar in Susupe early yesterday morning. The children, reportedly not properly restrained, suffered abrasion and injuries. One of the victims—a five-year-old child—sustained massive swelling in the face. The victim was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center for observation. The other victim—a four-year-old child—sustained abrasion to legs and arms and is now out of danger, Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lt. Pete Muna said.

December 3, 2009

Wiseman disqualifies five NI voters, upholds two

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman has disqualified five challenged voters and upheld two in the ongoing court battle for a single vote in the Northern Islands mayoralty race. Among the two voters Wiseman ruled as qualified voters is the Northern Islands mayor-elect Tobias Dela Cruz Aldan. Wiseman determined five voters to be disqualified and had their votes struck. Wiseman asked additional witnesses/voters to return on Monday at 9:30am for the continuation of the hearing. Attorney Robert Torres, counsel for Aldan, told Saipan Tribune there is a pending issue for the court to rule on in relation to its plan to depart from procedure, which is to determine the qualification of voters first.

Labor never issued 'conditional umbrella permits'

The Department of Labor never issued any "conditional umbrella permits" and that no "umbrella permits" were issued after the Nov. 27, 2009, deadline, according to acting Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat yesterday. Kaipat also disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that their current estimate is that more than 96 percent of eligible workers picked up their "umbrella permits." On the "conditional umbrella permits" issue, the acting Labor Secretary said they never issued such permits and that the announcement in the newspapers about the permits was only from Attorney General Edward Buckingham.

December 3, 2012

Fitial vetoes bill strengthening laws on sex crimes

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed on Friday a bill seeking to strengthen laws on sex crimes and domestic violence, citing "some very serious concerns" that the Office of the Attorney General raised including the removal of vital definitions that would hinder prosecution. Rep. Edmund Villagomez's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-193, House Draft 1 specifically seeks to establish minimum mandatory sentences for sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor, increase the time-served component necessary for parole eligibility, and amend existing definitions to clarify provisions relating to sex crimes and domestic violence. Villagomez is currently off-island.

15K limit on CWs justifies transition extension, reflects job losses

A 33-percent decrease in the limit on the number of foreign workers allowed in the CNMI—from 22,416 in fiscal year 2012 to 15,000 in FY 2013—is a reflection not only of severe job losses in the CNMI but also justifies repeated calls for an extension of the transitional Commonwealth-only worker program beyond 2014, stakeholders said. Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said "although it has been a long time coming, it's good to see a number from DHS that's based upon demand." "More importantly, the Chamber's membership awaits word on the extension of the transition period. That 15,000 ceiling, with the initial 22,371 nonresidents, and the 11,735 CW-1 applications received, not only indicates the overall job loss in the CNMI. It also means there's a continuing need for skilled labor in the CNMI that cannot be met within the local population."

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL II
On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Director of Law Enforcement and Security in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs general court security duties, including providing safety and security during judicial proceedings, providing protection from harm and personal injury to assigned justices, judges, court personnel, clients, jurors and witnesses;
- Provide protection from damage and vandalism to the court facilities, equipment and other related resources;
- Assist with all necessary inspection and screening of persons and items entering the court facilities restricting from entry those that are prohibited within the court premises;
- Assists in transporting and escorting prisoners and other detainees who are awaiting court appearance. This includes transporting prisoners from the Department of Public Safety (or from other locations as instructed) to the courthouse and return; from the courthouse holding cells to the courtrooms and return, and other related work;
- Provide physical and electronic security monitoring of all assigned areas under the control of the Marshal Division;
- Assist in protecting and transporting (if necessary) jurors and other court personnel during jury trial and deliberation;
- Assist with court bailiff functions;
- Assist in the preparation of reports of service and no-service, including submission of daily activity and incident reports;
- Provides the general public with direction and general information on all judicial service locations with the courthouse;
- Attends and successfully completes all training courses as directed by the Director of Law Enforcement and Security, including but not limited to, any law enforcement officers training courses offered through the Northern Marians College;
- Assists the other Deputy Marshals in their duties; and
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree, plus a minimum of two (2) years experience in legal, law enforcement, court work or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $18,585 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

5 Tinian beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged 5 Tinian beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Affected sites are Unai Chulu, Taga Beach, Leprosarium Beach II, Kammer Beach, and the Tinian harbor. Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Guam veterans town hall meeting today

The Veterans Affairs Honolulu Office will be hosting a town hall meeting for all veterans in Guam today, Dec. 3, from 5pm to 7pm at the Okkodo High School on 660 Route 3, Dededo, Guam. VA Pacific Islands Health Care System Director Wayne Pfeffer and VBA Regional Office Director Tracey Betts will be hosting the town hall meeting. Contact the VA Guam CBOC at (671) 475-5760 for more information. ***(PR)***

Chamber meeting today at World Resort

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its general membership meeting today, Dec. 3, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. This day also is the Chamber's annual Career Exploration Day. On the agenda to speak are several younger Chamber members who will give brief speeches about their individual paths to success. Buffet luncheon begins at 11:30am, with the meeting starting at noon. Luncheon cost for Chamber members is $20, non-members pay $30. Chamber businesses hosting students at the luncheon will be charged the member rate of $20. ***(PR)***

Saipan veterans town hall meeting tomorrow

The Veterans Affairs Honolulu Office will be hosting a town hall meeting for all veterans tomorrow, Dec. 4, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park's Visitor's Center Theater in Garapan, Saipan. VA Pacific Islands Health Care System Director Wayne Pfeffer and VBA Regional Office Director Tracey Betts will be hosting the town hall meeting. Contact Ruth Coleman at (670) 322-0035 at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic for additional information. ***(PR)***

Brilliant Star to host Holiday Bazaar

Brilliant Star School will kick off the holiday season with the Holiday Bazaar this Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, from 9am until 4pm. The annual event showcases the arts of local artists and wares of other vendors, and allows island residents and visitors to buy unique and beautiful gifts for the holidays. Entertainment will be provided by a variety of local performers. Shoppers have a chance to win items such as beautiful handmade jewelry, local artwork, and gift certificates from local restaurants in the hourly raffle drawings. ***(PR)***

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On this special day, best wishes go out to Ton and Rose, that the wonderful love you share lasts your lifetimes. Thank you for all the love, support and guidance. Happy anniversary, Mom and dad! We love you beyond the universe! Greetings come from your children.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL I
On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Director of Law Enforcement and Safety in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms;
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $16,652 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

PROBATION OFFICER I

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Probation Officer in the Office of Adult Probation on Saipan which involves investigating, monitoring and/or supervising various levels and types of offenders' court ordered probation. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs all assigned duties relating to probationers' cases scheduled for court hearings;
- Investigates thoroughly offenders' personal history, background and environment;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the offenders' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Conducts interviews with probationers according to approved techniques in order to determine and clarify probationers' problems, and consulting with the supervisor as necessary, suggests constructive methods for dealing with such problems;
- Contacts public and private community agencies to secure their aid in solving probationers' problems. Maintains a continuing and ongoing relationship with the agencies as necessary;
- Documents facts and testifies in Court with respect to the Probationers' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while under supervision;
- Appears in Court for the purpose of providing testimony on Probation cases;
- Enforces Court Orders involving Probation cases;
- Attends public relations activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions; and
- Performs other law enforcement and public safety related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university. Have three (3) years experience in legal, law enforcement and/or court work. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL I
On the island of ROTA

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Director of Law Enforcement and Safety in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms;
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Credit cards charge into the future, belatedly, with chip technology

Will this be the last year you swipe all your gift purchases?

Next holiday season, odds are you'll make some credit card purchases differently, using a newly issued Visa or MasterCard embedded with anti-theft chip technology.

The job of the magnetic strip on the back of your card will be taken over by a tiny microprocessing chip that tightens security by creating a unique code for each transaction. Instead of swiping this card, you will insert it in a pay terminal, a la an ATM.

Sounds futuristic? Not so much.

The United States is years behind Europe, Asia and elsewhere in going the chip route, providing interesting insight into the financial industry's perspective on identity theft. Turns out the industry doesn't fear fraud exactly the same way we do.

When chip cards began to take off about a decade ago, U.S. retailers and financial services companies didn't embrace the idea because of the expense involved in rolling out what's called EMV technology. They could afford to stand pat since banks and credit card companies already were doing a strong job of fraud detection through other means, such as algorithms that identify potentially sketchy transactions as they occur.

Eduardo Perez, a Visa senior vice president, tells us his company's global fraud rate is low—about 6 cents per $100 of transaction. Some put industry numbers higher, but still not at crisis level. What has changed dramatically is the perception of security, in light of massive data breaches at retailers such as Target and Home Depot. If consumers believe they are more likely to become victims of fraud and identity theft, they are less likely to want to use their credit cards. And that's the truly frightening news to the card companies, banks and retailers. So they've got to act.

"We're doing this to give consumers confidence," Perez said.

Another reason to adopt chip-based cards is their convenience for traveling Americans; swipe machines are disappearing from Europe and elsewhere. In most places overseas, you make purchases by using the chip card and entering a PIN number. U.S. travelers have found themselves flummoxed at restaurants in China or train kiosks in Amsterdam because their old-fashioned plastic doesn't work.

Being last to the chip party is a fraud risk, and a mild embarrassment: An American invented the credit card, for goodness sake (Frank McNamara created the Diners Club card in New York in 1950).

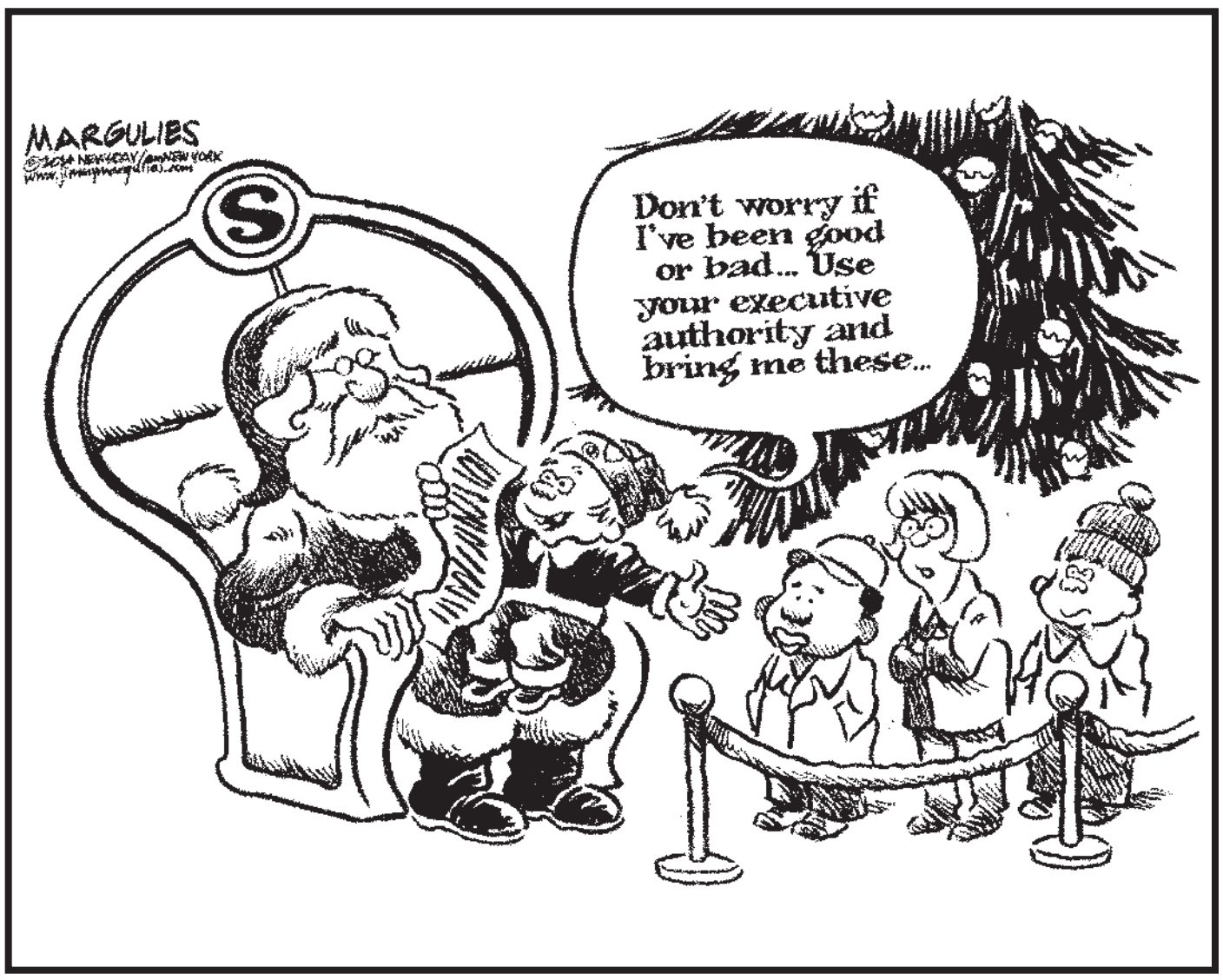
So here's where things stand: The card companies have set a line in the sand of October. That's when their fraud policies will change. Any merchant or card issuer that doesn't have a chip-compatible payment system will assume liability for counterfeit card transactions.

Only a small number of Americans have chip cards today. But by the end of 2015 about 70 percent of credit cards and 41 percent of debit cards will be chip-embedded plastic (with the magnetic strip as a back-up). Some transactions will require use of a PIN number, others just a signature; retailers don't think consumers have the patience (or ability?) to learn to do two new things at once.

Hmm. We wonder if the credit card business somehow underestimates Americans' innate desire to spend.

They shouldn't. We all want to shop—safely. Even though the chip card won't solve all data breach vulnerabilities, it will help. Don't wait. Tell your bank you want a chip-embedded credit card ASAP.

(c) 2014 Chicago Tribune



UMC, Bill Cosby, and me

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

I shifted from civil to canon law in '65 after I bumped into Bultmann, Bonheoffer, Chardin, Tillich, Rahner, Kuhn, and the Niebuhrs. Though I grew up a pastor's kid, there was no pressure to follow father's footsteps. Customary to Pilipinos, one is sacrificed at the altar of sanctified poverty through Church ordination and my youngest brother had the honor. He did not expect his elder brothers to segue into pastoral theology, so by the time it was his turn, my mother said, "Enough."

I became an earthrise *glocal* warrior (global in perspective, local in responsibility), a creature at the edge of my social time. I hied back to the Philippines to join the ongoing UMC renewal so that we can reformulate the world!

The idealism of youth was short-lived. Many in my denomination cared only to be a delegate to the U.S. General Conference, or be an Episcopal bishop. Daily pastoring to the realities of this world was peripheral. Oneupmanship was prevalent.

Pea Eye hosted U.S. air and naval bases, sending uniformed personnel to Korea and Vietnam. The UMC perfunctorily prayed for peace, but we were uppity American-led Protestants in a medieval Roman Catholic ocean and, as separated brethren in the faith, we treated Catholics, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists as pests. Chiang's Chinese did not count. They were Mao's pagans and communists, below the human radar screen. Koreans and Japanese who converted were missionaries' minions.

Colleagues polished and refurbished the image of Christ's universal reign, or oiled the promise of upward bliss in the by and by. Inversely, my feet were grounded in mud, hands dirtied in the complex stew of human affairs, my gaze horizontal rather than heavenward. Mission moved to the global network of structural revolution, a long concrete march in the here-and-now attempted by of the Ecumenical Institute where I asked the UMC to have me assigned. EI's engagement seared deep; we took turns on sabbatical.

I went back to UMC in Guam on my sabbatical where the community diplomatically told me that teaching at seminary was where I was best suited. That triggered my wandering into the ecology rhetoric of PCV, aka U.S. Peace Corps, USAID, World Bank and the ADB in Manila.

It was 1984, title of George Orwell's dystopian novel, when *The Bill Cosby Show* upped NBC's ratings. To understand how radical the show was, after two decades of the Civil Rights Act, Cliff and Claire Huxtable played by Bill Cosby and Phylicia Rashad became a throwback to a wholesome family of well-off parents with relatively level-headed children, a Hollywood stereotype, save this was an African-American family.

The global mission of EI collapsed in 1986. The center would not hold for 2,500-some "volunteers." The group held each other accountable to their covenants, me on my marital fidelity. Arriving in San Francisco at the height of the Haight-Asbury love-in just after my teens, I took to habit Robert Heinlein's *grokking* in his sci-fi novel *Stranger in a Strange Land*. Not wildly but frequent enough to be aberrant to the norm of religious clerics; it proved costly. Covenants dissipated.

At a PCV orientation for Muslim Mindanao in Zamboanga in the '80s, I was taken by one trainee graduate of prestigious Quaker Elon College, a walk away from where I was previously a shade-of-color as associate in Muir's Chapel, an all-white UMC in North Carolina. I took the lady trainee out to lunch.

I was not innocently flirtatious. But I was gallantly friendly to the opposite sex, though I previously labored promoting horizontal social relations in community development; I did not pay close attention to trainer-trainee relations. Being the training director, Reagan's PCV country director's feedback adjudged my taking a trainee out to lunch to constitute "abuse of power"!

Bill Cosby has contradictions. Attractive to ladies and admired by men, he was said to be thoughtful to those who warmed his bed (says bag man Frank Scotti); he also allegedly indulged in chemical stimulants, like the rest of the entertainment industry in his time. Ladies today, out of a more stringent standard of "abuse of power" a few years after the fact, accuse Cosby of having forcibly coerced them into submission to his will. The emotionally laden term is "rape." The number of accusations and quality of confessions fall against Cosby's favor. The Temple U grad and poster boy just resigned his seat in the boardroom.

Goodbye Immanuel UMC on Saipan came in 2003 after I self-defrocked. Funny Cosby is no longer funny, time for him to call it a night. (Joan Collins reveals that her first husband drugged and raped her when she was a 17-year-old virgin, married and divorced him four years later. Must be a post-WWII syndrome!) For those of us who still regard his fallen humanity as par for the course, he might just let Roseanne Barr make him the butt of her joke at her being bloodied after a tussle with Cosby.

I write, *inter alia,* of the "sins of this father."

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gambling debt cripples Macau 'junket' model

The following article was published in the Japan Times *recently. It speaks volumes what happens when a major scaffold losers its strength at the base in the Chinese gambling hub.*

MACAU (Reuters)—Companies that connect China's wealthy gamblers to Macau's casinos are waiting as long as a year for gamblers to repay billions of dollars of loans, crippling the business model of an industry that sustains the world's biggest casino center.

These "junket" businesses, which lend to high rollers and operate private gambling rooms, normally collect within 30 days and charge interest rates as high as 3 percent per month on overdue balances, according to Macau-based junket consultant Tony Tong.

Now the junkets are on the hook for a surge in bad debts as China's economic slowdown and a corruption crackdown keep some VIP gamblers away. With little access to credit and slow repayments, the money isn't flowing.

"The business model looks near-broken," said Philip Tulk, an analyst with Standard Chartered in Hong Kong.

Heng Sheng, one of the largest junket operators, told investors in October that 30 percent of the outstanding debt owed to its agents was over a year old, according to notes taken by a participant at a private conference. Many gamblers are making monthly installments rather than the normal practice of paying in full.

It is difficult to establish how much credit these junkets extend, because much of the business is done informally, but one Hong Kong-based analyst at an international bank estimated there was 100 billion Hong Kong dollars ($12.9 billion) of outstanding debt.

China limits the amount of yuan that citizens can take out of the country. Junkets serve as a conduit by lending Hong Kong dollars or Macau patacas, which are both accepted in the casinos.

This system insulates casino companies from credit risk, and helped propel Macau revenues to $45 billion last year—seven times Las Vegas's take. Macau's revenues are on track to fall 1 to 2 percent this year, well off last year's gain of 19 percent.

Without a healthy junket industry, casino operators such as Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Melco Crown Entertainment would have to rely on mass-market gamblers or extend VIP credit directly—a practice that has led to write-offs in places such as Singapore, where junkets are tightly restricted.

Wealthy coal baron Lu Zhong Lou is one example of how the junket business can go wrong. Ranked among China's wealthiest tycoons by *Forbes*, the 49-year-old from Shanxi province frequented luxurious casinos, including Wynn Macau's caramel-hued VIP parlors and Galaxy Entertainment Group's diamond-encrusted saloons, according to six people familiar with his gambling habits.

He owes junkets and Chinese businessmen as much as HK$3.5 billion ($451 million), according to his creditors and local media.

Junket operators say not all lending is recorded in contracts, and Lu's tally may also be inflated by interest and by side betting, an illegal arrangement between a gambler and junket operator in which every dollar bet actually represents as much as 20 times more.

In a series of phone calls with Reuters, Lu initially agreed to speak to a reporter about the gambling debts but then declined. Ji Jin Wu, a legal representative for Lu, said he was unable to comment without Lu's permission.

Lu's creditors said his wealth and influence made it especially difficult to collect, and local media reported in October that two of his creditors were detained by Chinese authorities for reasons unclear.

"Currently it is hard enough to collect debt from low-ranking state executives, let alone for the higher-ranked ones. How do you pressure them? You can't. You have to write it off," said Peter Wong, director at Total Credit and Risk Management Group, which helps businesses recoup debt."

Investing in our people

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

For 30 years I've quietly reviewed the issue of investments in indigenous public land, specifically how the foreign-investment paradigm benefited us beyond dirt-cheap land leases.

Since its inception the focus of discussion has been about money and menial jobs. After set fees are formalized and paid, the interest of benefactors (indigenous people) fades like objects in the rearview mirror. We don't return to revisit it until the term of the lease nears expiration.

The issue reminds me of the marshmallow test. The head of the study team places a piece of the candy in front of about five young students. Nothing was said but simply a keen observation what would they do with it.

Some quickly grabbed and gobbled the sweet stuff. The others took their time until they are sure it was okay to eat it. Through the years, students who devoured the candy struggled to earn a living. The more thoughtful bunch succeeded! Perhaps we have been gobbling one too many marshmallows!

Understandably, our easygoing island nature didn't prepare us to go beyond linear thinking into the analytical level. Thus we struggle with the inability to see issues beyond their face value in order to make what's known as "paradigm shift" or the way we do things. After endless bouts with such cultural anomaly it's time to retreat to reassess our journey.

But what must be opened for discussion with anchor investors? We must not demand but explore meaningful partnerships and their assimilation into our island community. A partnership fosters making indigenous employees your natural ambassadors. It's a matter of granting your employees confidence in their future!

What about the rest? Education and the health of our people are vital for the future success of strong NMI governance. This is where you could gradually funnel money as a matter of commitment to help local students and trainees here and abroad in pursuit of strong academic and skills acquisition. Call it investing in our people!

GOP could reopen citizenship paths created by Hoover and Reagan

By DAVID E. FUNKE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The United States has always had a "path to citizenship." One of my ancestors simply went to a judge in St. Louis in 1850, proved he had been here for two years since getting off the boat and renounced his allegiance to the queen of Prussia.

A few decades later, Congress added two requirements: You had to prove you weren't a criminal and that you could support yourself. After World War II, Congress began the sponsorship system. A loved one who was already a citizen petitioned for you. Or if you had a special skill, or proved you were not taking work from an American, an employer sponsored you.

Since 1882, the government could and would deport you if you were unlawfully here. But the American people are just. For example, Herbert Hoover signed a "registry" law in 1929 allowing the undocumented to become legal if they showed tax payments, lack of criminal record, good health, seven years' residence and other "equities." Ronald Reagan signed a similar measure in 1986.

Republicans today could pick up the ball from those GOP presidents, not by creating a new path, as in the 600-page immigration bill the Senate passed in 2006. Instead, they could unblock the old paths Hoover and Reagan created. They could do this in signature conservative fashion—by taking a few laws off the books, not adding them.

The worst offender in U.S. immigration law is a floor amendment that was slipped into a spending bill by a one-term congressman in 1996. President Clinton reluctantly signed the bill, to avoid government shutdown. But he added a signing statement, as President George W. Bush did with many of his signings, denouncing the harsh effect on immigrants and their families. The amendment blocks immigrants who are here unlawfully from pursuing legal immigration for 10 years to life, depending on arcane rules for calculating "unlawful presence time."

This amendment, known as the "10-year bar," prevents undocumented people from getting into the formal immigration process. A business cannot petition for a tried and valuable employee. A burgeoning ethnic church cannot sponsor its pastor whose visa has lapsed.

Worst of all, the bar prevents a U.S. citizen from getting a visa for his or her undocumented spouse, no matter how long the marriage, how big the mortgage payment or how many U.S. children will go on welfare if the spouse is deported or cannot get legal work authorization. Limited waivers are available under current law, but getting them requires thousands of dollars in legal and filing fees, and the law is set up so that they cover only a small percentage of affected families.

In addition to the 10-year bar, immigration law requires most violators who want to fix their status to travel back to their native countries, wait out their time penalty and then "get in line" at a U.S. consulate or embassy. Such hurdles have had the unintended consequence of actually increasing illegal immigration, as undocumented people get trapped here, unable to reasonably fix their situation.

If the new Republican Congress thinks canceling such laws is too radical, it could still fix them by authorizing a broad waiver approvable upon payment of a fine, or just by changing a few numerals.

Or it could adjust Hoover's registry law, which was last updated in 1986. It now requires proof that an immigrant has been in the country since 1972. Congress could change that to a year of its choosing, cutting down the now 40-year residency requirement to something closer to the law's original idea. Or the ceiling on annual immigration quotas could be raised, so that a high-tech engineer no longer has to wait nine years from filing for legal residency and a work permit to getting a green card.

President Barack Obama wouldn't dare to veto such changes, and any of them would defeat him at his own game. Much of his executive order would wither on the vine, as nuclear families were reunited and employers once again sponsored their workforce in ways that existed in most of the 20th century.

David E. Funke is an adjunct professor of immigration law at Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville in Kentucky and an attorney. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dishonor for our veterans

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The unkempt grounds of the CNMI Veterans Memorial Cemetery is a reflection of total disregard and violation of the agreement to keep the place clean.

The CNMI Veterans Memorial Cemetery is the resting place of our veterans who served our nation and deserve respect. The present condition, with weeds growing wildly, is a reflection of total disregard and violation of the agreement to keep the place clean.

Who is responsible to keep the area clean? Are the offices responsible to keep our sacred grounds clean provided with sufficient funding? If the answer is no, why not? How much does it costs to keep it clean?

Fellow veterans and families, speak out and demand respect.

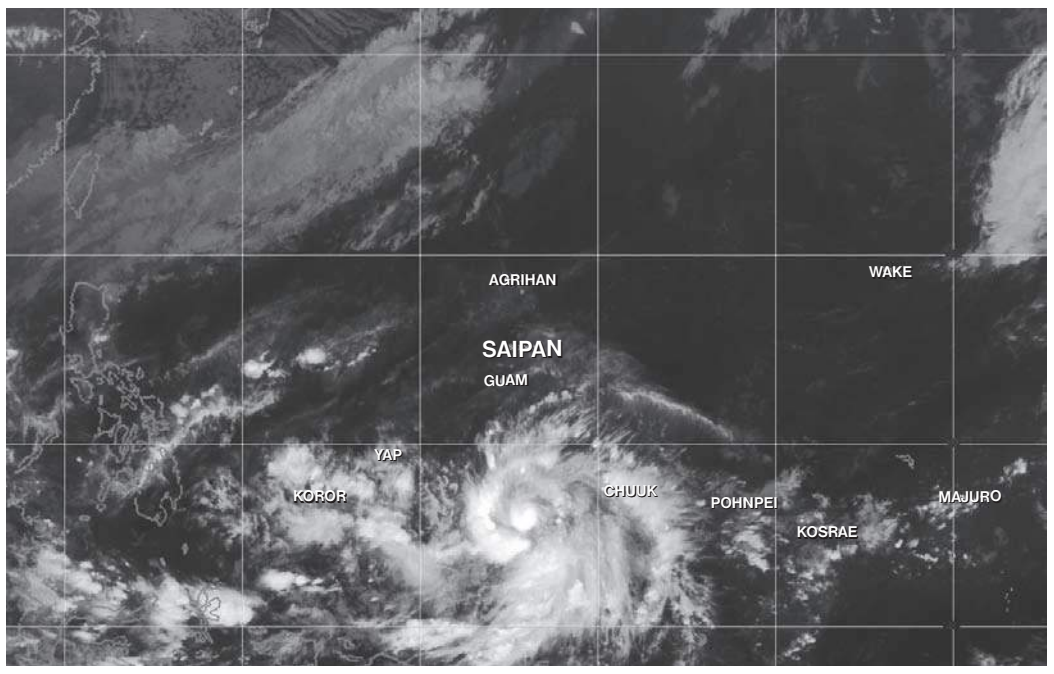
Joaquin P. Villagomez
U.S. Army veteran

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical storm Hagupit (22W) is centered 405 miles west-southwest of Chuuk and 515 miles south of Guam at 6N146E moving west-northwest at 15 mph with maximum sustained winds of 65 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are present west and southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 10N from 144E to 151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found farther east over and south of Chuuk between 1N and 8N from 151E to 154E. For more information on tropical storm Hagupit see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E to tropical storm Hagupit. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen south of Yap and around Koror between the equator and 9N from 130E to 143E. A nearly stationary front stretches southwestward from 25N139E to 20N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are located along and northwest of this boundary to beyond 25N. Another stationary front meanders southwestward from 23N180 to east of Wake Island at 19N170E. Patchy rain and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 450 miles northwest of this front.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼82
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲69	▼54
Beijing	Sunny	▲33	▼19
Hong Kong	Showers	▲69	▼55
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼69
London	Showers	▲47	▼45
Los Angeles	Rain	▲62	▼59
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼67
Miami	Showers	▲77	▼71
New York	Showers	▲40	▼40
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼47
Paris	Cloudy	▲39	▼34
Pusan	Windy	▲51	▼34
Rome	Showers	▲63	▼56
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼34
San Francisco	Rain	▲61	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲34	▼23
Tokyo	Sunny	▲56	▼45
Washington, DC	Showers	▲40	▼39

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:29 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
4:40 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
11:55 PM	Today	High Tide:	-0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:11 PM	3:06 AM
Thursday	3:59 PM	4:02 AM
Friday	4:49 PM	4:58 AM
Saturday	5:40 PM	5:54 AM
Sunday	6:32 PM	6:48 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	1:30am	5:30am	4, 7
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:50pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	5:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Judiciary conducts first ever Mock Trial Academy

Students with Timothy H. Bellas (back right), Mock Trial committee member Sheila N. Trianni (middle left), and Mock Trial coordinator Nicole M. Torres (front left). CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Nov. 15, 21, and 22, 2014, the NMI Judiciary held the first Mock Trial Academy for high school students. Over 80 students participated in the academy.

Garth Backe, Assistant U.S. Attorney for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, began the academy with discussions on trial decorum, opening statements, closing arguments, and exhibits. Rexford C. Kosack, attorney in private practice and former CNMI attorney general, followed with a presentation on impeachment. Timothy H. Bellas, attorney in private practice, justice pro tem, and former CNMI Superior Court judge, subsequently touched on hearsay. Robert T. Torres, attorney in private practice and former CNMI attorney general, concluded the academy with a discussion on relevance.

The students will now be preparing for the High School Mock Trial competition on Feb. 26-27, 2015, at the Guma' Hustisia to compete for the honor of representing the CNMI at the national championship in May 2015. They will be arguing *Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands v. Quinn Siguenza*, a hypothetical criminal case about a veteran police officer charged with the murder of a repeat criminal offender and suspected drug dealer.

For more information about the case and the competition, visit http://www.justice.gov.mp/Mock_Trial_2015_2.php. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A final shot with Mock Trial Academy students, Robert T. Torres (middle right), Sheila N. Trianni (middle left end), and Nicole M. Torres (middle left).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Private practice attorney Robert T. Torres shares with students the key points of relevant evidence.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Private practice attorney Timothy H. Bellas gives a demonstration while explaining the hearsay objection.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Private practice attorney Rexford C. Kosack discusses the purpose of impeachment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Assistant U.S. Attorney Garth Backe gives students tips on trial decorum, opening statements, and closing arguments.

Making a difference: Fiesta repaints bus stops

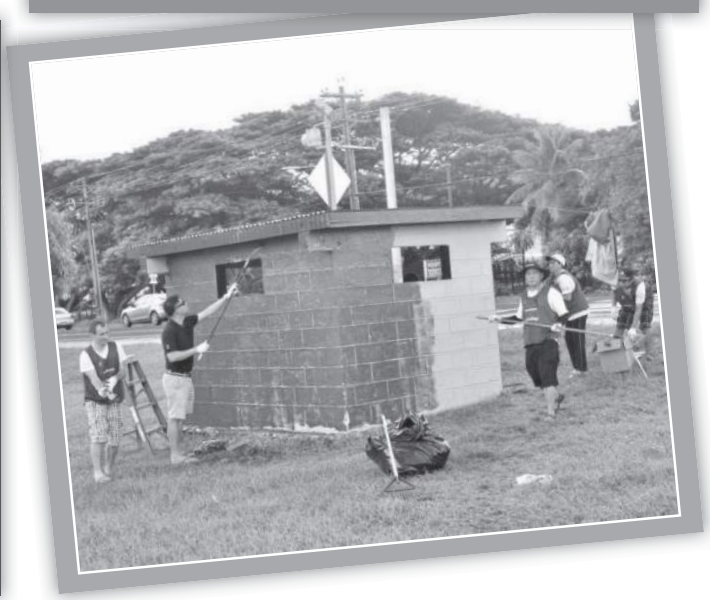
As part of its corporate responsibility initiative, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan launched Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014, its adopt-a-bus stop campaign in Garapan.

Managers and staff members took to the streets of Garapan for their adopt-a-bus stop project designed to give the bus stops a facelift with a new coat of paint.

With the support and permission of the Public School System, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan adopted five bus stops in Garapan that they will maintain as part of their corporate responsibility in helping the community and keeping the CNMI beautiful as they believe that beauty is a contributing factor to everyone's wellbeing.

"We were able to paint two bus stops today, thanks to the managers and staff who joined forces to make this happen," said Fiesta general manager Abner S. Acosta.

The Fiesta team agreed that cleaning up the bus stops is only half the challenge; the other half is keeping them free of graffiti. Weather permitting, the Fiesta team will continue to paint on Saturdays until all five adopted bus stops are completed. ***(PR)***



Fiesta hosts Thanksgiving lunch for *man'amko*

More than 60 *man'amko* gathered at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall on Friday, Nov. 28, 2014, to celebrate Thanksgiving Day. This year marked the 6th annual Thanksgiving luncheon hosted by Fiesta Resort.

"Through this luncheon, we are acknowledging the role and significance of our *man'amko* in our community. Every year, we look forward to hosting this luncheon in your honor," said Fiesta Resort general manager Abner Acosta.

Acosta and his department heads served the *man'amko* with a traditional Thanksgiving feast of roast turkey, stuffing, ham, as well as other non-traditional dishes. After the luncheon, the *man'amko* were treated to a mini-Polynesian show by the Tasi's Dance Troupe and some cha-cha dancing. There was also raffle drawing and all the *man'amko* were given Fiesta bags as Thanksgiving gifts.

Walter Manglona, director of the Office on Aging, expressed his appreciation to Fiesta Resort for their continued act of kindness to the *man'amko*. ***(PR)***

Business

Cyber Monday shoppers give retailers sales bump

NEW YORK (AP)—Cyber Monday is turning into Cyber Month.

Retailers rolled out discounts and free shipping deals on Cyber Monday, with millions of Americans expected to log on and shop on their work computers, laptops and tablets after the busy holiday shopping weekend.

But with retailers extending their online deals into "Cyber Week" and even "Cyber Month," early reports indicated shopping was less robust online on Monday compared with prior years. As of 6 p.m. ET, online sales rose just 8.1 percent compared with last year, according to IBM Digital Analytics. The figures don't take into account the many shoppers who plan to head online after work or in the evening. But a year ago, Cyber Monday sales jumped 20.6 percent, according to IBM.

It is still expected to be the biggest online shopping day again, as it has been each year since 2010. That is good news for retailers after a Thanksgiving weekend that saw fewer shoppers and lower spending than last year, according to some estimates.

Mobile traffic, which includes smartphones and tablets, has accounted for about 38 percent of all online traffic, compared with 30 percent a year ago. Average order value was $131.66, flat with 2013.

Forrester analyst Sucharita Mulpuru said retailers could be playing it safe on deal offers since shoppers have been conditioned to head online to look for sales on Monday.

"Cyber Monday offers aren't super compelling, but don't need to be," she said. "It's been the biggest shopping day of the year for the last few years, so they know that people are going to come."

Courtney Lane Greenley, 25, from Alexandria, Virginia, was feeling regret Monday that she didn't buy a knife block and cutlery earlier in the week, when she saw better deals online. Amazon was running a limited-time "lightning offer" for some Rachael Ray cookware on Friday under $100, but on Monday the same products cost more than $100.

"I should have pulled the trigger earlier," she said. Greenley didn't think she would make the purchases on Monday.

Jack Kananian, of Brunswick, Ohio, 31, was more satisfied with his purchase. He waited months to buy a computer because he wanted to wait for Cyber Monday deals. He found one on HP's mobile site and bought it via his smartphone on Monday, a computer with a touch screen for $550 marked down from $800.

"I've been taking a look at different prices, but I bought it once I saw the deal, it was the best price I saw by far," he said.

On Monday, Gap and Banana Republic offered 40 percent off all purchases. Amazon offered up to 45 percent off some Samsung TVs and a deal later in the day for its Amazon Fire TV video streaming box marked down to $69 from $99.

AP

Austin McHenry moves items at the Amazon fulfillment center in Lebanon, Tenn. on Monday, Dec. 1, 2014.

Global Traveler names United 'Airline of the Year'

» MileagePlus named best frequent-flyer program for 11th year
» Readers vote United best trans-Pacific airline

CHICAGO—United Airlines announced yesterday that *Global Traveler* has named United Airlines its 2014 Airline of the Year. A panel of *Global Traveler* advisory board members and employees chose United based on outside research, experiences traveling with the airline and information provided by the individual airlines that were nominated.

Global Traveler also announced yesterday that its readers named United the Best Trans-Pacific Airline and, for the 11th straight year, named MileagePlus the Best Frequent-Flyer Program. MileagePlus also won for Best Frequent-Flyer Bonus Program.

The United MileagePlus Club Card was named Best Credit Card and Best Credit Card Rewards Program, while the United MileagePlus Explorer Card was named Best Frequent Flyer Affinity Credit Card Redemptions.

In its announcement, publisher and CEO Francis X. Gallagher noted the "exceptional quality" of United and of Marriott, United's partner in the RewardsPlus program, which offers United's and Marriott's top customers elite travel benefits. Marriott was named 2014 Hotel of the Year.

"This year, United has continued to create a more flyer-friendly experience for our customers—broadening our global route network, introducing new tools to give customers more information and control over their travel experience, and providing our employees more of what they need to provide better service in our airports and onboard our aircraft," said Jeff Foland, United's executive vice president of marketing and strategy. "Next year, customers and employees can look forward to more investment in service, technology and reliability."

In 2014, United announced a multi-million-dollar investment in its domestic premium-cabin food and beverage service and launched personal device entertainment on more than 180 airplanes. It now offers Wi-Fi on more than 370 aircraft, with additional aircraft being outfitted at the rate of one per day.

The airline continues to expand its unmatched worldwide route network with new nonstop flights between Chengdu, China, and San Francisco; Melbourne, Australia, and Los Angeles; and Santiago, Chile, and Houston, to name a few.

United also invested in more user-friendly airport experiences and technology options for travelers. Last month, the airline unveiled new customer features for its Newark hub, complete with 24 new restaurants inspired by internationally and regionally acclaimed chefs and electronic payment technology with nearly 6,000 iPads for customer food ordering. In May, the airline opened a new state-of-the-art concourse at Boston Logan Airport, added new Global Services lobbies in Newark and San Francisco and opened several new United Clubs.

The United app continues to be a top-downloaded app for customers and in 2014 the airline became the first U.S. carrier to offer customers the ability to scan their passports to check-in for international flights via the app. ***(United)***

Jurors to hear Steve Jobs testimony at Apple trial

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—After nearly a decade in legal wrangling, a billion-dollar class-action lawsuit over Apple's iPod music players heads to trial on Tuesday in a California federal court. A key witness will be none other than the company's legendary late founder Steve Jobs, who will be heard in a videotaped deposition.

Attorneys for consumers and electronics retailers claim Apple Inc. used software in its iTunes store that forced would-be song buyers to use iPods instead of cheaper music players made by rivals. The software is no longer used, but the plaintiffs argue that it inflated the prices of millions of iPods sold between 2006 and 2009—to the tune of $350 million. Under federal antitrust law, the tech giant could be ordered to pay three times that amount if the jury agrees with the estimate and finds the damages resulted from anti-competitive behavior.

"The fact that this case is still going 10 years later is a sign that technology often outpaces law," said Mark Lemley, a Stanford law professor.

Attorneys are set to make opening statements Tuesday morning in the Oakland, California courtroom of U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers.

The case harkens back to the early days of digital music and portable devices, when Apple quickly became the world's biggest legal seller of downloaded songs after launching its iTunes store in 2003. By agreement with major record companies, which were wary of unauthorized copying and file-sharing services like Napster and Kazaa, Apple encoded the songs sold through iTunes with "digital rights management" software that prevented unauthorized copying. The same software, known as FairPlay, was also built into iPods.

FBI looking into hack of Sony Pictures' computers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The FBI has confirmed it is investigating a recent hacking attack at Sony Pictures Entertainment, which caused major internal computer problems at the film studio last week.

Sony's corporate email and other internal systems were knocked offline, according to reports by Variety and other trade publications. Sony workers reportedly saw a message appear on their computer screens that said "Hacked by (hash)GOP," which may be the initials of a group calling itself Guardians of Peace. Copies of some unreleased Sony films such as "Still Alice," "Annie," "Mr. Turner," and "To Write Love on Her Arms" are now being distributed on unauthorized file-sharing websites, as well as the still-in-theaters "Fury," although a direct connection to the hacking hasn't been confirmed.

Sony Pictures hacked

A cyber-attack on Sony Pictures has led to digital copies of unreleased movies being uploaded to illegal pirating services. Here's a look at the movies and the number of illegal downloads for each.

Pirated movie title	Unique IP address downloads
"Fury"	1.2 million
"Annie"	206,000
"Still Alice"	103,832
"Mr. Turner"	63,379
"To Write Love on Her Arms"	19,946

Source: Variety
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Culver City, California-based Sony Pictures said in a statement Monday that it is continuing "to work through issues related to what was clearly a cyber attack last week. The company has restored a number of important services to ensure ongoing business continuity and is working closely with law enforcement officials to investigate the matter."

Along with the FBI, Sony has brought in forensic experts from the Mandiant division of FireEye, a Silicon Valley cybersecurity company, according to a source familiar with the case who did not want to be named because the companies have not yet announced the arrangement. Mandiant helps companies determine the extent of breaches and repair damages. The firm has worked on other high-profile computer breaches, including the one at Target last year.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
17,776.80	2,053.44	4,727.35
-51.44	-14.12	-64.28
-0.29%	-0.68%	-1.34%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.1752	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7551	Philippine Peso	44.715
British Pound	0.6359	Indian Rupee	61.97	Singapore Dollar	1.255
Canadian Dollar	1.1331	Indonesian Rupiah	12274	South Korean Won	1063.7
Chinese Yuan	6.1499	Japanese Yen	118.475	Swiss Franc	0.9286
Euro	0.8024	Malaysian Ringgit	3.423	Taiwan Dollar	29.85
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2701	Thailand Baht	31.547

Nation

Obama: Wants to avoid 'militarized' police culture

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Monday he wants to ensure the U.S. isn't building a "militarized culture" within police departments, while maintaining federal programs that provide the type of military-style equipment that were used to dispel racially charged protests in Ferguson, Missouri.

Obama

Instead, the president is asking Congress for funding to buy 50,000 body cameras to record events like the shooting death of an unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown and look for ways to build trust and confidence between police and minority communities nationwide. He announced the creation of a task force to study success stories and recommend ways the government can support accountability, transparency and trust in police.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced on Monday new Justice Department plans aimed at ending racial profiling and ensuring fair and effective policing.

"In the coming days, I will announce updated Justice Department guidance regarding profiling by federal law enforcement, which will institute rigorous new standards—and robust safeguards—to help end racial profiling, once and for all," Holder said in Atlanta.

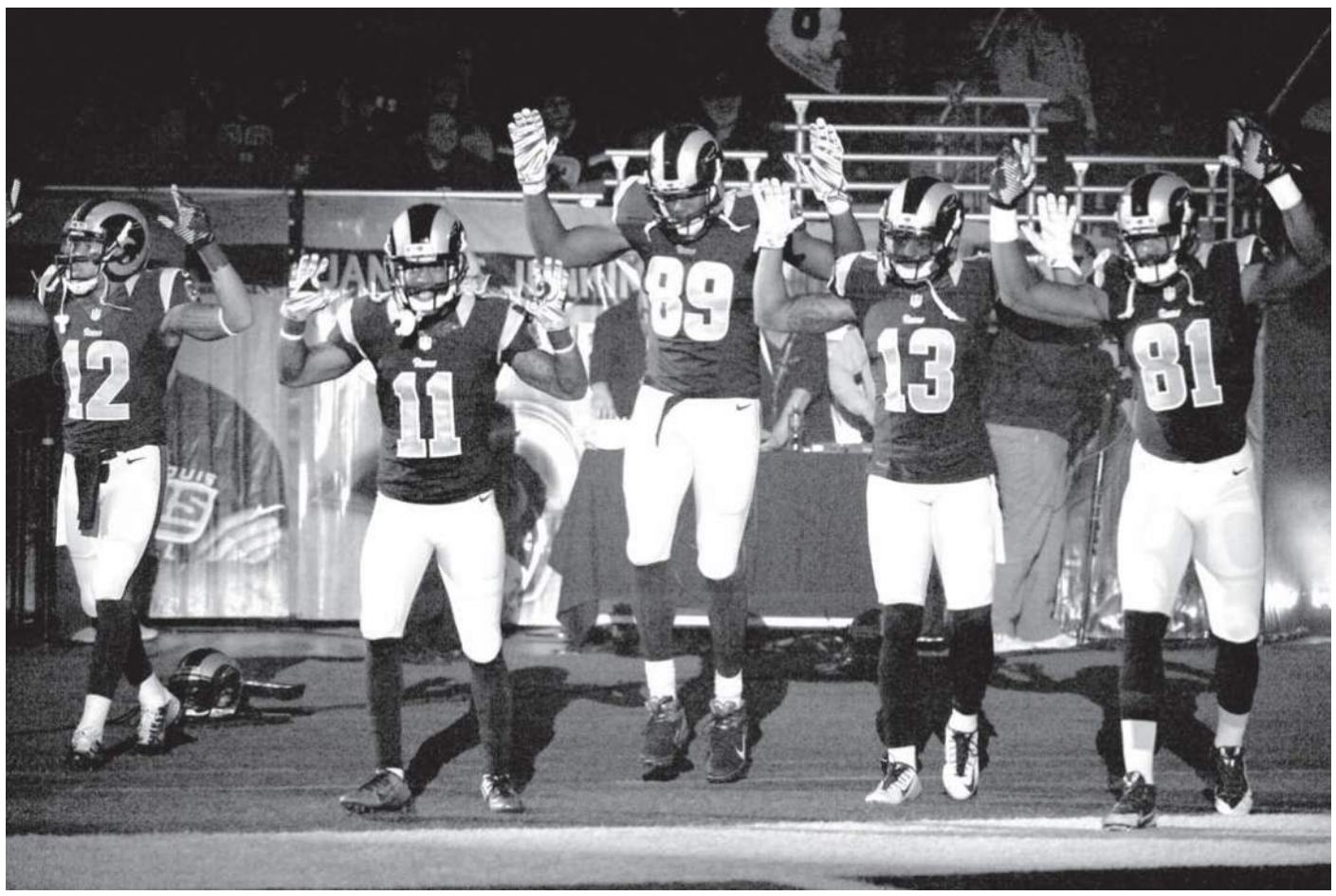
With protests ongoing in Ferguson and across the country, Obama spoke to reporters at the end of a White House meeting with police, civil rights activists and local leaders and acknowledged the participants told him that there have been task forces in the past and "nothing happens."

"Part of the reason this time will be different is because the president of the United States is deeply invested in making sure that this time is different," Obama said. He said he was upset to hear the young people in the meeting describe their experiences with police. "It violates my belief in what America can be to hear young people feeling marginalized and distrustful even after they've done everything right."

At least for now, Obama is staying away from Ferguson in the wake of the uproar over a grand jury's decision last week not to charge Darren Wilson, the police officer who fatally shot Brown. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating possible civil rights violations that could result in federal charges, but investigators would need to satisfy a rigorous standard of proof. Justice also has launched a broad investigation into the Ferguson Police Department.

Obama is proposing a three-year, $263 million spending package to increase use of body-worn cameras, expand training for law enforcement and add more resources for police department reform. The package includes $75 million to help pay for 50,000 of the small, lapel-mounted cameras to record police on the job, with state and local governments paying half the cost. Estimates vary about the precise number of full-time, sworn law enforcement officers in communities across the U.S., though some federal government reports in recent years have placed the figure at roughly 700,000.

Hands-up gesture animates Ferguson protests


AP

Members of the St. Louis Rams raise their arms in awareness of the events in Ferguson, Mo., as they walk onto the field during introductions before an NFL football game against the Oakland Raiders, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, in St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Five St. Louis Rams players entered the football field with their hands raised. A day later, people walked out of work or school showing the same gesture of solidarity with Ferguson protesters.

The pose has come to symbolize a movement, even though witnesses offered conflicting accounts of whether 18-year-old Michael Brown had his hands up in surrender when he was killed by Ferguson officer Darren Wilson in August.

The power of the symbol was evident again Monday. Protesters across the country walked off the job or away from class in support of the Ferguson protesters. Walkouts took place in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and elsewhere.

At the University of Missouri-St. Louis, not far from Ferguson, sophomore Amber Whitaker was among about 30 students who chanted "Hands up. Don't shoot!"

Whitaker, who is white, said the symbolism is what matters, not whether Brown literally had his hands in the air.

"There are black men and women who are shot with their hands up," Whitaker said. "There are black men and women who are shot unarmed. It may not apply exactly to Mike Brown, but it still happens."

The exact circumstances surrounding Brown's death will forever be in dispute. Wilson, who is white, shot and killed Brown, who was black and unarmed, on Aug. 9. A grand jury's decision last week not to indict Wilson set off renewed protests, some of which turned violent.

Wilson told the grand jury that he shot Brown in self-defense. But several witnesses said Brown had his hands up in surrender. Within hours, "Hands Up. Don't Shoot!" became the rallying cry for protesters.

Witness accounts contained in thousands of pages of grand jury documents reviewed by The Associated Press showed many variations about whether Brown's hands were actually raised—and if so, how high.

Some people were offended by the hands-up gesture.

The St. Louis Police Officers Association said the display by Rams players Tavon Austin, Kenny Britt, Stedman Bailey, Jared Cook and Chris Givens was "tasteless, offensive and inflammatory."

The group, joined by the St. Louis County Police Association, met with Rams leaders Monday. Rams coach Jeff Fisher said during a news conference Monday that neither the team nor the NFL will discipline the five players for the gesture.

ACROSS THE NATION

Suspect in 4 West Virginia killings found dead

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)—After fatally shooting four people, setting off an hourslong manhunt and putting schools and residents on alert for an armed man, the owner of a small towing business was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in his truck in the woods, state police said Monday. The search for Jody Lee Hunt, 39, began about 10 a.m., when state and local authorities warned people to look out for his black 2011 Ford F-150. Hunt was wanted in three separate shootings—two in the Westover area, outside Morgantown, and another in the Cheat Lake area in Monongalia County, state police said. Officials released the names of two of the victims but little other information until after 7 p.m., when he was found in his vehicle.

Coroner: Exam will look at brain of Ohio St player

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A neuropathologist will look for signs of traumatic brain injury in an Ohio State athlete who was found dead in a trash bin of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound and had a reported history of concussions, a coroner said Monday. The examination, not normally part of the autopsy process, is being done on Kosta Karageorge because of that history, said Dr. Anahi Ortiz, the Franklin County coroner. The pathologist "may or may not be able to determine any sort of abnormality or defect from traumatic brain injury," Ortiz said.

Mennonite sentenced in cartel drug smuggling case

DENVER (AP)—It was an unlikely alliance that authorities said involved a group of pacifist Mexican Mennonites accused of growing tons of marijuana and working with a notoriously vicious Mexican cartel to ship it across the U.S. border. Abraham Friesen-Remple was one of six members of the Mennonite farming community in Ciudad Cuauhtémoc who were indicted and accused of smuggling pot in the gas tanks of cars and inside farm equipment. Friesen-Remple was sentenced Monday in federal court in Denver to 15 months in prison after pleading guilty to using a telephone to facilitate the distribution of marijuana.

NASA launching new Orion spacecraft on test flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA's quest to send astronauts out into the solar system begins this week with a two-laps-around-Earth test flight.

The new Orion spacecraft is not going to Mars just yet; Thursday's debut will be unmanned and last just 4 1/2 hours. But it will be the farthest a built-for-humans capsule has flown since the Apollo moon missions, shooting 3,600 miles out into space in order to gain enough momentum to re-enter the atmosphere at a scorching 20,000 mph.

The dry run, if all goes well, will end with a Pacific splashdown off Mexico's Baja coast. Navy ships will recover the capsule, a la Apollo, for future use.

This initial Orion is rigged with 1,200 sensors to gauge its durability for the day when astronauts do climb aboard during the decade ahead. Advertised destinations include an asteroid to be corralled in lunar orbit for human exploration in the 2020s, followed by Mars in the 2030s.

"We're approaching this as pioneers," said William Hill of NASA's exploration systems development office. "We're going out to stay eventually. ... It's many, many decades away, but that's our intent."

Lockheed Martin Corp. built the capsule and is staging the $370 million test flight for NASA.

Orion is NASA's first new spacecraft for humans in more than a generation, succeeding the now-retired space shuttles. Unlike the capsules under development by two U.S. companies for space station crew transport, Orion is meant for the long haul, both in time and space; it would be supplemented with habitats for potential Mars trips.

"We need a spacecraft that's going to be sturdy enough and robust enough" to carry astronauts well beyond low-Earth orbit for weeks and months at a time, said Lockheed Martin's Bryan Austin, a former NASA shuttle flight director who will oversee Orion's maiden voyage.

"That's how Orion really separates itself from the commercial field. They're there to get you to station and back. Of course, we're there to be hardened enough to sustain it for that long duration."

Asia

Over 50 still missing after South Korean ship sinks in Bering Sea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean officials expressed fear Tuesday of a huge death toll after rescuers failed to find any of the more than 50 fishermen missing after their ship sank amid high waves in the freezing waters of the western Bering Sea on Monday.

Authorities rescued seven crew members and recovered one body, but weather and water conditions complicated the search for the others, an official from the South Korean fisheries and oceans ministry said on condition of anonymity because of office rules.

The crew included 35 Indonesians, 13 Filipinos, 11 South Koreans and one Russian inspector, the official said. Russian authorities said there were 62 people aboard the ship, which sank in the western part of the Bering Sea, near Russia.

The South Korean ministry official said it's believed that the ship, which was catching pollock, began to list after stormy weather caused seawater to flood its storage areas. Kim Kang-ho from Sajo Industries, the canned tuna company that owns the ship, said the 2,000-ton vessel was 36 years old.

Source: BBC
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

An official from South Korea's foreign ministry, who refused to be named citing office rules, said Tuesday morning that the death toll was expected to rise because rescuers failed to find any of the missing passengers. Four fishing ships that were operating nearby continue to search for survivors, but harsh weather conditions have limited their mobility, the official said.

South Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won vowed told a Cabinet meeting that the government will work with Russia to speed up the rescue efforts.

Authorities in the Russian port of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky said the rescued fishermen were well and would be taken to South Korea once the weather improves.

"The condition of the fishermen who were rescued is fine," Artur Rets, chief of the rescue center at the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky port, told the RIA Novosti news agency.

Kim from Sajo said the ship left for the Bering Sea from Busan, South Korea, on July 10 for the Bering Sea to catch pollock, a winter delicacy in South Korea.

Another official from Sajo, who did not want to be named, said the ship had eight lifeboats and that the seven fishermen who survived and the person later found dead used one of them to escape. The captain of the ship had issued an escape order and it was believed that the rest of the crew also attempted to escape, he said.

Hong Kong protest leader on hunger strike

HONG KONG (AP)—A prominent Hong Kong teen protest leader said Monday he's going on a hunger strike after a failed attempt by pro-democracy activists to step up their flagging movement for democratic reforms by surrounding government headquarters.

Joshua Wong's announcement came after protesters carrying umbrellas—which have become symbols of the pro-democracy movement—battled police armed with pepper spray, batons and riot shields for hours overnight before being driven off a main road outside the complex at dawn.

The government complex was forced to shut temporarily and the city's Beijing-backed leader said public patience was wearing thin, adding that police would "continue to take decisive action to enforce the law."

Student leaders conceded that their attempt to escalate their movement had failed. With options running out, the 18-year-old Wong announced at a rally late Monday that he and two other members of his group would go on an indefinite hunger strike to press demands that the Hong Kong government drop restrictions on inaugural 2017 elections for the city's top leader.

Wong leads Scholarism, one of two student groups that have played key roles organizing the protests that have occupied major streets around the city for two months.

Hundreds of protesters overran police lines Sunday night as they tried to block traffic on a main road, but were stopped by police barricades from going down a side road to Chief Executive Leung Chun-Ying's office.

The protesters, many wearing surgical masks, hard hats and safety goggles and chanting, "I want true democracy," said they wanted to occupy the road to prevent Leung and other government officials from getting to work in the morning.

Video of women fighting off harassers shocks India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A video showing two sisters in northern India hitting back at men who allegedly harassed them on a crowded bus has drawn huge attention in a country where hundreds of thousands of women silently endure sexual harassment daily.

The video, filmed by a passenger and aired on several television channels Monday, shows the two young women hitting, punching and beating their harassers with a belt, as other passengers silently look on. The women, identified only by their first names, Arati and Pooja, said they lashed out at the men after enduring lewd comments and pawing from them.

"One of the boys started touching my sister and making kissing gestures," Arati told reporters. "I told him to go away or I would teach him a lesson. Then he called another boy saying that we have to beat up two girls. And then the other boy got on the bus."

The sisters said that no one on the bus tried to help them. Instead, other passengers told them to not provoke the men, because they might later attack them or throw acid on them.

Press Trust of India reported that the video was shot Friday as the sisters were on their way to college.

By late Sunday, police in the state of Haryana had arrested three men and were investigating the incident.

As the news of the women's actions spread, Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana's chief minister, lauded the bravery of the two women and said they would be honored during India's Republic Day celebration in January.

The video drew a massive response on social media, with many Indians applauding the sisters' bravery, while criticizing the passengers for failing to come to their aid.

World

Extremists kill at least 7 in Nigeria

BAUCHI, Nigeria (AP)—Suspected Islamic extremists struck in two state capitals in northeastern Nigeria on Monday, killing at least seven people and injuring dozens with a double bombing at a crowded market and an attack on a police base. Around 30 extremists were also killed in clashes with security forces, police said.

The attacks were the latest in a week of violence linked to Islamic militants that has killed more than 170 people in northern Nigeria.

Police spokesman Gideon Jubrin said at least five people were killed at a market in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state where two female suicide bombers also killed 70 people a week ago.

A vigilante official said two young female suicide bombers were also responsible for Monday's blasts and that they had recovered their bodies along with those of six victims. Hospital officials said they were treating more than 40 people with serious injuries. The vigilante and hospital officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give information to reporters.

In Damaturu, the provincial capital of Yobe state some 135 kilometers (85 miles) west of Maiduguri, extremists destroyed several buildings and killed at least two doctors when they stormed the residential quarters at the general hospital, according to the Hospitals Management Board. Three other doctors were abducted.

Police there said the attackers drove State Security Service agents from their offices but were repelled, and about 30 terrorists were killed when they tried to take over Yobe Government House, where there is a military armory.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the Maiduguri blasts but people blamed Boko Haram, the Islamic extremist group that has carried out many such attacks in a 5-year insurgency that has killed thousands and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes.

Bala Dauda, a trader at the market there, said rescue workers were evacuating the dead and wounded from the site.

Red tape may be blocking US couple's Qatar exit

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—An American couple cleared by a Qatari appeals court of wrongdoing in the death of their 8-year-old adopted daughter but blocked from leaving the country held out hope Monday that they would soon be allowed to leave the tiny Gulf nation. A family representative, meanwhile, blasted the continued travel ban against the two as "institutional kidnapping."

On Sunday, the court in Qatar overturned a child endangerment conviction against Matthew and Grace Huang of Los Angeles over the death of their daughter, Gloria, and said they were free to leave the energy-rich OPEC nation.

But they were stopped at the airport hours later as they tried to depart, despite efforts by the U.S. ambassador herself to intervene.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry welcomed the decision to overturn the Huangs' conviction but said the United States was "deeply concerned about new delays that have prevented their departure."

Kerry spoke Sunday with Qatari Foreign Minister Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah and urged the government to immediately implement the court's decision and allow the family to return to the U.S. "without further delay," according to a press statement.

Qatari officials have not commented on the verdict or the continued travel ban against the couple. A brief statement carried by the official Qatar News Agency noted the foreign minister's call with Kerry but said only that the two men "exchanged views on a number of topics of common interest."

Eric Volz, managing director of the David House Agency, a crisis-management firm that is coordinating legal and publicity efforts for the family, told The Associated Press that the Huangs have been informed by the U.S. government that a number of procedural steps must still be completed before they can depart.

"We really are hopeful and doing everything we can to get out of here," Volz said by phone from the Qatari capital, Doha. "The family feels they are being ping-ponged around."

Volz described the couple's predicament as "institutional kidnapping" and accused powers inside Qatar of influencing and obstructing the judicial process.

WHO says Liberia, Guinea meeting Ebola targets

GENEVA (AP)—Liberia and Guinea have met a Dec. 1 target for isolating 70 percent of people infected with Ebola and safely burying 70 percent of those who die but Sierra Leone has not, the World Health Organization said Monday.

Only last week, the U.N. health agency said only Guinea was on track to meet the targets for getting the Ebola outbreak under control in the three hardest-hit West African countries.

But at a news conference in Geneva, WHO's Dr. Bruce Aylward said the organization had revised its conclusion based on more analysis of its data. Sierra Leone also probably met the targets in the west of the country, he said, and likely will improve to the 70 percent target nationwide "in the coming weeks."

Aylward also told reporters that WHO's ambitious plan to stop the deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa has shown it is possible to quickly reduce the "yawning gap" between disease levels and the capacity to respond.

AP
In this photo taken on Friday, Nov. 28, 2014, health workers wearing Ebola protective gear spray the shrouded body of a man with disinfectant as they suspect he died from the Ebola virus, at a USAID, American aid Ebola treatment center at Tubmanburg on the outskirts of Monrovia, Liberia.

"You can catch up with Ebola even on this scale," he said.

WHO launched its Ebola its 70 percent plan two months ago.

In Freetown, Sierra Leone, on Monday, the chief executive of the National Ebola Response Centre, retired Maj. Alfred Palo Conteh, acknowledged that "as far as meeting the 70 percent isolation target, we did not do well and could have done better."

He said authorities there need more beds for isolation, adding that 400 beds are expected in the next two weeks.

Good Housekeeping

Warming up to home-inspired holiday ideas

By ANGIE HICKS
ANGIE'S LIST

There's no place like home for holiday inspiration. Your house can be a both a source of gift ideas and a festive seasonal beacon.

Here are some home-focused holiday suggestions:

Tools of the do-it-yourself trade

If you or someone you know lacks essential home maintenance and repair supplies, this is a great time to ask for, or give, a toolbox stocked with handy items. Beyond the most obvious—screwdrivers, a hammer and a few wrenches and pliers—here are some ideas:

■ Cordless drill: An 18-volt variable speed model is a good choice.

■ Ladder: For versatility, ask for one that becomes an extension ladder or can collapse into a regular stepladder.

■ Retractable measuring tape: This is so handy for so many uses. (Plus, it's fun to press the button so the tape rolls noisily back in place.)

■ Superglue: It's great for fixing a broken mug handle and helping with many other sticky situations.

■ WD-40: Provides a quick fix for a stubborn lock or a squeaky door hinge.

Holiday illumination inspiration

If you love holiday lights but loathe installing or storing them, consider hiring help. Some pros, including landscapers and handyman companies, offer decorating as one of their services. Some companies even make it their primary focus.

In many cases, you can pay to essentially lease lights and other display items, which lets you change designs each year. Expect to spend at least $500 for this service. Holiday decorating services may be hard to book this close to the holidays, so make sure to plan ahead for next year.

When buying your own lights, consider LED options. Though more expensive than incandescent lighting, LED versions generally use 75 percent less energy and can last as long as 20 years.

Photo tricks

Holidays at home provide plenty of photo opportunities. Here are some professional tips for better pictures:

■ Lighting matters. Good options include daytime window light and outdoor light in the late afternoon or early morning.

■ Go beyond the pose. Don't demand that kids stand or sit perfectly still. Find a safe place for them to jump, skip, run and roll, then try to keep up with your camera or smartphone.

■ Try a different angle. Crouch low for some pictures. For others, get eye level with your subject or stand on a chair.

A tip about holiday tipping

This is the time of year when many of us wonder whether to tip the people who help keep our homes in order. A general rule of thumb is that tipping is not standard for contractors such as plumbers, roofers and electricians, but it is common for housecleaners and movers. No matter what the service, however, tipping is never required and always a matter of choice. Cash and gift cards make great tip options.

Angie Hicks is the founder of Angie's List, a resource for local consumer reviews on everything from home repair to health care. Follow her on Twitter @Angie_Hicks.

Secrets of successful remodeling

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The book features twelve contemporary homes of the "white wall interiors" variety with thoughtful, spare furnishings and interesting backstories.

By LYNN UNDERWOOD
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Julie Carlson had just completed a second remodeling project in three years and was exhausted from perusing infinite websites for products and resources. Her friends felt the same way.

"We knew there had to be a better way than going to a plumbing website and looking at 1,000 faucets," she said. "There's more than 2,000 decisions to make in even the simplest kitchen remodel."

So in 2007, Carlson and three design-savvy cohorts sat down at her California dining table and created a blog called "Remodelista," featuring carefully curated products, photos and remodeling and decorating ideas. Remodelista eventually evolved from the blog to a digital home design resource. "We would get together and nominate our favorites and pick the 'best in show,'" said Carlson. "It just took off.

This year Carlson and the other editors have gone old school by publishing the new book *Remodelista: A Manual for the Considered Home* (Artisan Books, $37.50).

"The book has 95 percent new photos and material on home remodels that aren't on the website," said Carlson. Within the 387 pages is an inside look at 12 homes, ranging from an 1850s farmhand's cottage, to a Brooklyn apartment, to actress Julianne Moore's Greek Revival townhouse. In the last chapter, the editors have done all the clicking for you by winnowing down their all-time favorite everyday objects—the Remodelista 100.

We chatted with Carlson about remodeling mistakes to avoid, Moore's makeover and the 1960s hippie style revival.

Q: What remodeling project is worth splurging on?

A: If you have a well-thought-out kitchen with good countertops and appliances, you'll get your money back.

Other smart upgrades—a good, solid, heavy front door for curb appeal, and simple brushed stainless or porcelain light switch plates. It's surprising to me when I go into an expensively remodeled house and they still have cheap plastic ones from Home Depot.

Q: What's the first step before you dive into a major remodeling project?

A: Research, research, research—so you know what you want before you talk to an architect. And choose the right team by interviewing at least three contractors and architects. These people are going to be part of your life for a while and you need them to work like a well-oiled machine.

Q: What are common remodeling mistakes people make?

A: They don't finish the last 10 percent because of decision fatigue. I have a friend who didn't pick out a pendant light because he was tired of making decisions, and the contractor put in a fluorescent fixture. Many people don't correct errors right away and just live with them. I ended up with movable, instead of fixed, shelves next to my bed. When I hit my alarm clock, the shelf falls down. The little things can bug you.

Q: Some of the projects use Ikea cabinets and curtains. What are other ways to cut costs?

A: Be creative with your sourcing. For fixtures and fittings, look at industrial suppliers such as McMaster-Carr. Schoolhouse supply stores are great for library book carts.

Q: What are some tricks for bringing light into dark spaces?

A: Our first home in San Diego was a dark pine-paneled ranch house. Painting the interiors white made such a difference. Add skylights or transom windows. Put on doors with frosted glass to let light filter through. There's nothing like natural light.

Q: What are the emerging trends for 2014?

A: L.A. has some of the more refreshing design. There's a big trend toward a 1960s hippie revival of Bohemian interiors, macrame and hanging spider plants—it's looser and craftier. But will it filter to the rest of the country? In the kitchen, granite countertops have become identified with McMansions and spec houses. I think Carrera marble has become much more desirable.

Q: What will have the biggest impact on home design and remodeling in the future?

A: Everyone should be thinking about green materials and sustainability. Stay away from plastic, and stick with reclaimed wood and natural stone, and you'll end up with a better product.

Q: What is the "Remodelista look"?

A: Our editors gravitate toward very classic, streamlined, uncluttered interiors—timeless, not trendy. Our style is warm, livable modern.

Q: Why is it called "A Manual for the Considered Home?"

A: We were inspired by the quote by William Morris, the English Arts and Crafts designer, that you should not bring anything into your house that's not useful or beautiful. It's easy to get caught up in the consumer culture and fill your house with clutter. We've tried to create a website and book of projects and products that we carefully considered—and keep it pure and focused.

Recovering a vinyl floor

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: The vinyl floor in my kitchen is pretty old—there are bubbles under the surface, and the edges are peeling back from the walls. How expensive is this to replace? Can I install a different material?—John T., Norcross, Ga.

A: Vinyl flooring can be the most economical material you put into your home. It's durable, resilient and relatively easy for new do-it-yourselfers to install.

If you're tired of vinyl, other flooring materials are perfectly fine. Ceramic tile, synthetic laminate (made to look like hardwood) and natural stone are popular choices for the kitchen. However, they typically cost more than vinyl sheets or tiles.

To replace your old floor, cut long strips into the vinyl and then pull the strips up. Use a wallboard knife and a solution of water and liquid dish detergent to loosen the backing. Scrape remaining flooring up using a floor scraper and the detergent solution, clear away all the debris, and vacuum with a wet-dry shop vacuum (put a bit of water in the vacuum to keep the dust down).

Inspect the exposed underlayment—a sheet of plywood or cement board laid over the subfloor. This is the most important factor in a good-looking, durable vinyl floor. It provides a smooth surface for resilient flooring to adhere to. However, it can be damaged by water leaks and day-to-day use.

Replace damaged underlayment, and fill small holes and seams with latex patching compound. Check for squeaks or sags, and inspect the subfloor, joists and foundation to make sure they aren't deteriorating. If you see damage of any kind, consult a contractor. Repairs to the subfloor and supports may cost more than you had budgeted, but the long-term benefits are more than worth it.

Once the underlayment is deemed healthy, place the new vinyl flooring. Make the job easier by creating a cutting template—laying sheets of paper along the edges of the walls and marking areas that need special cuts, such as around pipes. Tape the papers together to create a full-size outline of the room.

Roll the vinyl out in an open area. Position the paper template over the vinyl, and trace the template perimeter (and markings) using a water-soluble pen. Make the necessary preliminary cuts.

Once this prep is finished, roll up the vinyl sheet, carry it into the kitchen, and install according to the manufacturer's instructions. It'll be much easier than you think!

HOME TIP: Vinyl flooring made before 1986 may contain asbestos, which can cause severe health problems if inhaled. If your vinyl floor could be 30 years old or more, play it safe by contacting an asbestos abatement contractor.

Send your questions or home tips to ask@thisisahammer.com.

Life & Style

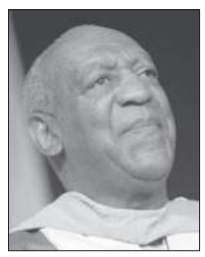
Bill Cosby resigns from Temple University board

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby stepped down as a trustee of his beloved Temple University following renewed accusations that he had drugged and sexually assaulted a string of women over many years.

The 77-year-old entertainer has been a high-profile booster for his alma mater in Philadelphia and a board member since 1982.

"I have always been proud of my association with Temple University. I have always wanted to do what would be in the best interests of the university and its students. As a result, I have tendered my resignation," Cosby said in a statement released by the university.

Board chairman Patrick O'Connor told The Associated Press that the comedian does not want to be a distraction.


Cosby

"The Board of Trustees accepts Dr. Cosby's resignation ... and thanks him for his service," the university said in its release.

O'Connor had defended Cosby in a 2005 civil suit filed by a former Temple basketball employee who accused Cosby of drugging and molesting her at his suburban Philadelphia mansion a year earlier. Cosby, who said he gave the woman only Benadryl, later settled the lawsuit for undisclosed terms.

More than a dozen other women have come forward since the lawsuit was filed to make similar claims, including several who have gone public this month. Some said they passed out after taking a drink or pill from him, and woke up with their clothes askew, and, in some cases, in physical pain.

Cosby has strongly denied wrongdoing and has never been criminally charged. A suburban Philadelphia prosecutor declined to file charges in the 2005 case, and most of the other women came forward too late.

"He didn't comment on the allegations (Monday)," O'Connor said. "They were from (as long as) 50 years ago."

Cosby, who was born and raised in Philadelphia, has been one of Temple's most famous alumni and a frequent commencement speaker.

Several other colleges have also severed their ties with Cosby in recent weeks. The Berklee College of Music will no longer award a scholarship in Cosby's name, and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst had him step down as honorary co-chairman of their $300 million fundraising campaign.

At Temple, an online petition urging the university to cut ties with Cosby had garnered more than 1,000 signatures by Monday afternoon.

The accusations, although unproven, "got to the point where the reputation of the institution started to get dragged down with (them)," said Raymond Smeriglio, president of the student body.

Cosby testified in the 2005 civil case that he gave the National Enquirer an exclusive interview about former Temple basketball employee Andrea Constand's lawsuit claims in exchange for the tabloid spiking a story about a second accuser, Beth Ferrier. "Did you ever think that if Beth Ferrier's story was printed in the National Enquirer, that that would make the public believe that maybe Andrea was also telling the truth?" Cosby was asked.

"Exactly," Cosby replied, according to court motions initially filed under seal and made available last week from archived federal court records.

Although willing to play the public face of Temple in advertisements, fundraising campaigns and commencement speeches, Cosby was a rare sight at board meetings.

A review of minutes to 138 board meetings held since 1982 suggests he attended just once—in December 2002, when he was on campus to film a Temple women's basketball commercial.

But his commencement speeches were wildly popular, and he gave a welcome lecture to freshmen classes called "Cosby 101."

Judge allows publication of 'In Cold Blood' files

AP

This combination made from undated file photos shows Richard Hickock, left, and Perry Smith, the two men hanged for the Nov. 15, 1959 murders of Herb and Bonnie Clutter and their children in Holcomb, Kan.

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—The son of a Kansas law enforcement officer who helped investigate the 1959 killings that inspired the book "In Cold Blood" can publish his father's field notes that he contended Monday substantially contradict the account found in Truman Capote's literary masterpiece.

In a ruling made public Monday, Shawnee County District Court Judge Larry Hendricks said he made an error when he initially blocked publication of the criminal investigation files in 2012. His decision means that Ronald Nye of Oklahoma City can use his father's files for a book he plans about the slayings of prominent farmer and community leader Herbert Clutter, his wife and two children in Holcomb.

The Kansas attorney general's office had sued Nye to keep him from publishing the files. Nye had planned to auction the records, but later decided to write a book with author Gary McAvoy. Nye and McAvoy can now work with agents and find a publisher for their book.

Nye's father, Kansas Bureau of Investigation agent Harold Nye, kept the case files at his home. Hendricks ruled Nye's First Amendment right to publish the material outweigh the government's interest in maintaining the confidentiality of its investigative records. Nye and McAvoy would not reveal exactly what is in the files, but Nye said his father's notebooks had "vast discrepancies" from what Capote wrote.

"Our belief is that there is no other reason (Kansas) would want the materials we have suppressed were it not for the information we found in them," McAvoy said. "That information connects to other research I've done and supports a pretty compelling new theory—one that I am reluctant to even discuss at this point."

The state's lawsuit also asked the court to decide legal ownership of the case files. The judge has made no ruling on that issue.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt's office did not respond to email and phone messages seeking comment Monday.

Clutter; his wife, Bonnie Mae Fox; and their children, 15-year-old Kenyon and 16-year-old Nancy, were killed at their rural farmhouse. The hunt for their killers mesmerized the nation, drawing journalists from across the U.S. to the small, western Kansas town. Parolees Dick Hickock and Perry Smith were executed for the killings in 1965.

Capote's book about the crime inspired a movie of the same name.

Girl Scouts byting into digital for cookie sales

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—Watch out world, the Girl Scouts are going digital to sell you cookies.

For the first time since sales began nearly 100 years, Girl Scouts of the USA will allow its young go-getters to push their wares using a mobile app or personalized websites.

But only if their scout councils and guardians say OK.

"Girls have been telling us that they want to go into this space," said Sarah Angel-Johnson, chief digital cookie executive for the organization covering about 2 million girls. "Online is where entrepreneurship is going."

And the best news for these digital natives: They can have cookies shipped directly to your doorstep.

More than 1 million scouts, from kindergarten-age Daisies to teens, were expected to opt in as cookie-selling season cranks up this month and the scouting organization gets digital sales underway. But the tactic is intended to enhance, not replace, the paper spreadsheets used to generate an estimated $800 million in cookie sales a year—at anywhere from $3.50 to $5 a box, depending on scout council.

There are important e-lessons here, scout officials said, such as better articulating and tracking goals, learning to handle customers and money in a new way, and more efficiently processing credit card information.

"A lot of people have asked, `What took you so long to get online?' We spend a lot of time thinking how do we make this safe, scalable and smart," Kelly M. Parisi, chief communications executive for Girl Scouts of the USA, said at a recent demonstration for select media.

Councils were offered one of the two platforms but not both. For web-based sales, scouts customize their pages, using their first names only, and email prospective customers with links to click on for orders. They can also put up videos explaining who they are and what they plan to do with their proceeds.

The mobile platform offers tabs for tracking sales and allows for the sale of bundles of different kinds of cookies. It can be used on a phone or tablet.

"They can get them quicker than waiting for me to deliver them because sometimes it takes me a long time to deliver," offered 11-year-old Priscilla at the preview. The adults at the event asked that only first names of scouts be used.

Added 7-year-old Anna: "My favorite part is that now I can sell more Girl Scout Cookies." She pulled down about 200 boxes last year and has upped her goal to 600. Girl Scouts use their cookie money to pay for community service work or troop activities such as camping and other trips.

The websites will not be accessible without an email invitation, requiring the girls to build client lists. And personal information is as protected as any digits out there, for both the scouts and customers, using encryption in some cases.

Much of the responsibility to limit identifying details about scouts online falls on parents.

Troop Leader Karen Porcher of the Bronx has an 11-year-old scout and is particularly psyched about the digital options. They live in a house rather than an apartment, and she and her husband work at home, eliminating at-office cookie and neighborly building sales.

AP

In this undated photo released by Girl Scouts of the USAGirl Scouts, Bria and Shirell practice selling cookies on one of two new digital platforms.

Creed frontman's wife seeking divorce, help

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Creed frontman Scott Stapp's wife is seeking a divorce from her estranged husband.

Jaclyn Stapp filed for divorce from the 41-year-old singer and asked a judge in Palm Beach County, Florida, last month to have her husband admitted to a substance abuse facility. She said her husband has been using several drugs and threatened to kill himself and harm his family. She said he left their home in early October.

AP

In this Sunday, April 6, 2014, file photo, singer Scott Stapp, of the band Creed, performs solo in concert at Soundstage, in Baltimore.

"It is a very painful and personal matter for the family," said Jason Brodie, Jaclyn Stapp's attorney. "Jaclyn loves Scott very much. It is now apparent the seriousness of Scott's health. Jaclyn has taken all the necessary steps to help him. She previously arranged for the appropriate treatment and will continue to try and help him. Her primary concern remains the best interest of their children. Jaclyn asks for privacy for her and her children during this difficult time."

The couple married eight years ago and has three children.

Stapp has been posting rambling online videos on Facebook over the past week saying he's broke. He denied he's taking drugs or alcohol and said he is "as sober as can be."

"When you can't get any help from law enforcement, your federal government or even local attorneys, what options am I left with except to make public statements like this, and put it out on the Internet and hope that someone's going to realize that the rumors that have been spread about me are lies," he said in one video.

The videos were later deleted and a statement posted Friday said Stapp is "going to step back and let God control everything from here on."

"I should have continued to do that before I allowed my hurt, frustration and emotions take control and post those videos," the statement said.

Creed last toured together in 2012. The band was one of the most successful rock acts of the 1990s, selling more than 40 million albums. Creed won the Grammy for best rock song for "With Arms Wide Open" in 2001.

First boyfriend for singing star Susan Boyle at age 53

LONDON (AP)—The magnificent and shy singer Susan Boyle has her first boyfriend at age 53—a Connecticut doctor she met on her recent U.S. tour who may soon visit her in Scotland.

Boyle

"That's the plan," Boyle's spokeswoman, Nicola Phillips, said Monday. "She met someone when she was in America and the idea is that he can come here."

Boyle and the doctor met at a hotel in Clearwater, Florida, Phillips said, adding that Boyle is "definitely" happy to have met someone.

The church volunteer from a small Scottish town became a global sensation when she sang the "Les Miserables" number "I Dreamed a Dream" on TV contest "Britain's Got Talent" in 2009. At first she seemed uncomfortable on stage, but she silenced skeptics as soon as she started to sing.

Boyle said at the time she had never been kissed.

The contrast between her timid, occasionally nervous manner and her matchless soaring voice won Boyle millions of fans throughout the world, and she has followed her TV breakthrough with a string of successful record releases. She has received an honorary doctorate, performed for Pope Benedict XVI and wowed audiences in Las Vegas.

But the pressures of performing have sometimes overwhelmed her, and she was treated for nervous exhaustion after her "Britain's Got Talent" run focused national attention on her.

Boyle told The Sun newspaper that the doctor she met in the U.S. was a "perfect gentleman" and that they enjoyed each other's company. She said the relationship was in "early days," but she hopes he will visit her in Scotland.

The singer was diagnosed last year with Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism, and had learning disabilities as a child.

The Boss becomes Bono: Springsteen sings with U2

NEW YORK (AP)—Bono has some top notch understudies: Bruce Springsteen and Chris Martin of Coldplay acted as the U2 frontman, who is recovering from a bike accident, at a concert Monday night honoring World AIDS Day.

Springsteen performed "Where the Streets Have No Name" and "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" alongside U2's Adam Clayton, The Edge and Larry Mullen Jr. in Times Square in front of few hundred fans, who stood in the rain.

Aside from highlighting the fight against AIDS, the night's other theme was supporting an injured Bono. Springsteen said he hoped the 54-year-old was recovering in Dublin, and Martin told the crowd after performing: "Sending my love to Bono."

A bike accident in Central Park last month left Bono with multiple injuries, including a facial fracture involving his left eye socket, a fractured left shoulder blade and a fractured left elbow. He underwent a five-hour surgery.

Martin, who wore a T-Shirt that read "Substitu2," sang "Beautiful Day" and "With or Without You."

The concert, billed "U2 Minus 1—Live in New York Tonight," also featured a pregnant Carrie Underwood and Kanye West, who was energetic when he performed hits including "Jesus Walks," "Power" and "Stronger."

Bill Clinton opened the concert Monday, which was World AIDS Day, and said Bono requested he do so.

"I got this email from Bono today recuperating in Dublin, and he said I had to come here tonight to do this intro," the former U.S. President said. "Twenty six years ago we could have never had an event like this on World AIDS Day because to be diagnosed with AIDS was the death sentence. A few years ago when Secretary of State Clinton said that we could end AIDS, a lot of people didn't believe it. But this year for the first time ever, more people were put on life saving medicine than were diagnosed with AIDS."

He later earned a loud cheer when he said: "We are going to win this fight."

President Barack Obama appeared in a video that played on a large screen in Times Square.

"We're closer than we've ever been to achieving the extraordinary—an AIDS free generation," he said. "We got to keep fighting, all of us."

U2 announced the concert on its website Monday.

"This year is a World AIDS Day like no other," Bono said in a statement from Dublin. "The world reached a tipping point in the fight against AIDS—more people were newly added to life-saving treatment than were newly infected with the virus. A lot of people are calling it the beginning of the end of AIDS.

The website also said Springsteen and Martin "graciously donated their time and talents to save the World AIDS Day event from cancellation."

Bank of America presented the free concert, and said it would donate $3 million dollars to the (RED) organization.

Kathy Griffin named new 'Fashion Police' host

NEW YORK (AP)—Kathy Griffin will be terrorizing the fashion crowd as the new host of "Fashion Police," replacing the late Joan Rivers when it returns to E! in January.

The comic-commentary series, which had aired weekly, will now present 17 special episodes throughout 2015 that focus on high-profile red carpet and fashion events, E! announced Monday. It returns Jan. 12 for coverage of the Golden Globe Awards.

Griffin

E! Executive Vice President Jeff Olde called Rivers "a dear friend and mentor to Kathy, who will no doubt continue her legacy and do the series justice by bringing her own unique comic style and tell-it-like-it-is personality to the host chair."

"You celebrities better strap yourself in," Griffin said, "as I am taking no prisoners."

Griffin is an award-winning actress, comedian and author known for her biting comic style. She won two Emmys for her Bravo reality series, "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List."

Her selection had been widely anticipated.

"Kathy just feels right," said Melissa Rivers, who continues as "Fashion Police" executive producer, adding: "I'm excited to see where this panel takes this series my mother so adored in this next incarnation."

Returning panelists Kelly Osbourne and Giuliana Rancic will be joined by newcomer Brad Goreski, a fashion stylist and lifestyle expert and the former star of Bravo's "It's a Brad, Brad World."

Photo gallery of perfection makes woman feel insecure

DEAR ABBY: I was divorced three years ago and have had a boyfriend, "Roger," for a year and a half. He is seven years younger, and he's intrigued with women on the Internet.

He saves tons of photos of these girls on his cellphone. These ladies are "perfect." They have big breasts and curvaceous behinds, etc. I have had two kids. I'm not overweight and I exercise and keep myself in shape, but I have a "Mom body."

Roger has told me he loves my body and everything about me. But the feeling I get is that he wishes I looked like those girls.

I have asked Roger not to save these photos because it makes me insecure. If he's going to look, fine. But saving them is another thing. He promised me he wouldn't, but some of them are still there. So he not only makes me feel like a fatty, but he lies to me, too. He has more pictures of other girls than he does of me.

Now I no longer feel comfortable undressing in front of him. I leave my clothes half-on and turn out the lights when we have sex. He has made me unable to stand myself. What do I do?

CAN'T COMPARE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CAN'T COMPARE: The first thing to do would be to stop looking at your boyfriend's cellphone. Then ask yourself whether he has been seeing other women or just collecting pictures. If it's the former, you have something to worry about. If it's the latter, it's no reflection on you, and he has voyeuristic tendencies (men are visual).

Stop making comparisons. He says he loves your body. Unless you have a solid reason to think differently, believe him.

You are overdue for a frank talk with Roger, and when you do, tell him everything you have written to me. Your problem may go deeper than his photo gallery and your lowered self-image. If you can't trust what he tells you, the foundation of your relationship isn't solid.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm carrying a heavy burden concerning my 14-year-old grandson. He told me in strictest confidence that he had sex with a 14-year-old girl. I have been his male support system, mentor, adviser, disciplinarian and friend for 12 years because his father is rarely in the picture.

He swore me to secrecy, which I want to respect, but I'm torn about telling my daughter. She has a right to know that her son is sexually active and needs closer supervision. We discussed condoms (they used them), accidental pregnancy, possible criminal charges and responsibility, but I think he is more proud than alert to the possible consequences.

If I share this with my daughter, I break a long-held trust. When I urged him to tell his mother, he refused. What do I do? This is tearing me up.

KANSAS GRANDPA

DEAR GRANDPA: Without betraying the confidence, start talking to your daughter about how, at 14, her son is fast becoming a man with all that it entails, including raging hormones. Then suggest she have some frank talks with the boy and keep a closer eye on him, unless she wants to become a grandma before he's out of high school.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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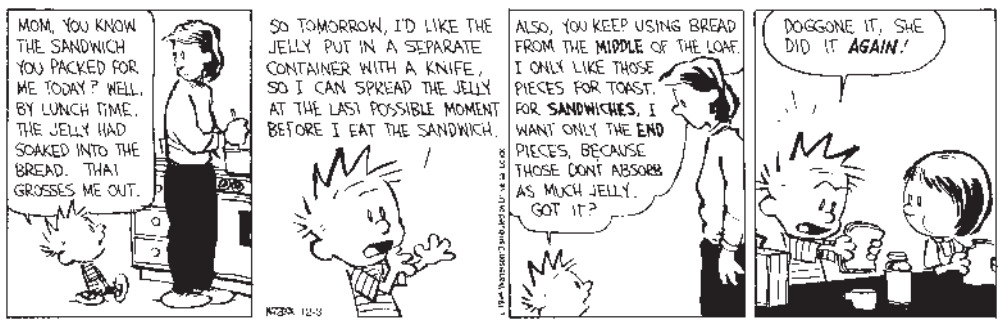
Pastimes

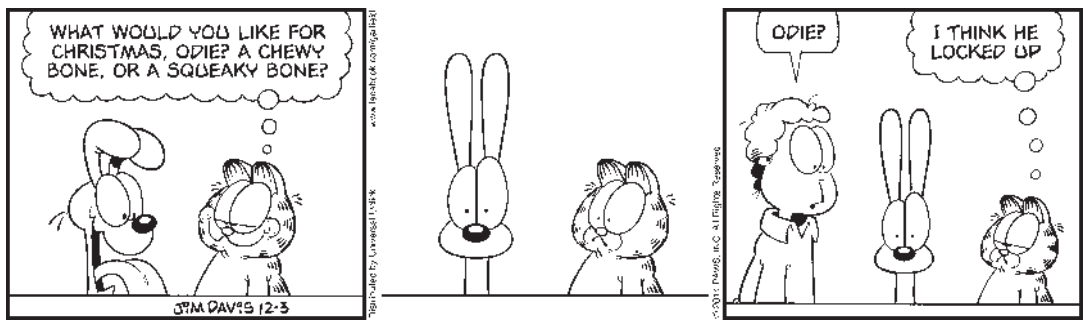
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM, YOU KNOW THE SANDWICH YOU PACKED FOR ME TODAY? WELL, BY LUNCH TIME, THE JELLY HAD SOAKED INTO THE BREAD. THAT GROSSES ME OUT.
SO TOMORROW, I'D LIKE THE JELLY PUT IN A SEPARATE CONTAINER WITH A KNIFE, SO I CAN SPREAD THE JELLY AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT BEFORE I EAT THE SANDWICH.
ALSO, YOU KEEP USING BREAD FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE LOAF. I ONLY LIKE THOSE PIECES FOR TOAST. FOR SANDWICHES, I WANT ONLY THE END PIECES, BECAUSE THOSE DON'T ABSORB AS MUCH JELLY. GOT IT?
DOGGONE IT, SHE DID IT AGAIN!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HERE'S YOUR KEYBOARD. CAN I HELP YOU WITH ANYTHING ELSE? MAYBE SOME SOFTWARE?
THIS IS CALLED "FREELANCE WRITER". WITH THIS, ANYONE CAN WRITE A PROFESSIONAL NEWSLETTER, BLOG OR ARTICLE.
DO YOU HAVE PAPER BAGS? I THINK I'M GOING TO HYPERVENTILATE.
NEED AN ISACK OVER HERE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

OKAY, KID. I'M SANTA'S ADVANCE MAN.
HERE'S HOW IT'LL GO: YOU GET FIVE MINUTES WITH THE BIG GUY. STAY ON POINT AND MAKE SURE YOU LAUGH AT HIS JOKES.
I THINK I HAVE TO PEE!
CODE YELLOW! CODE YELLOW!!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

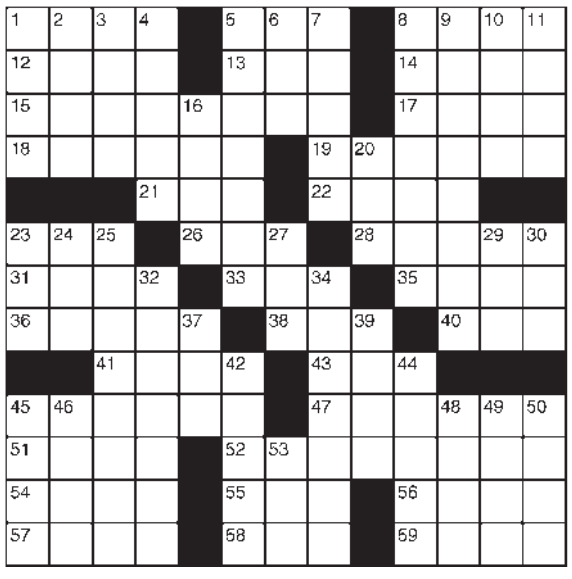
ACROSS
1 Pizzeria fixture
5 Old mailing abbr.
8 Parks or Bonheur
12 Playful prank
13 "— Town"
14 Terrible guy?
15 Defeat
17 Let off steam
18 O. Henry's "The — of Red Chief"
19 Evening affair
21 Sprite
22 Detail, for short
23 Commotion
26 Vessel for three men
28 Weapons of mouse destruction
31 Cleveland team, briefly
33 Meadow
35 Largest of the seven
36 Iota preceder
38 Blackjack component
40 Potent stick
41 Uses oars
43 Plant bristle
45 Record holder
47 Rids of frost
51 Reed instrument
52 Outbid, at bridge
54 Winged
55 Edge
56 Church area
57 Trawler gear
58 Spring period
59 "Monopoly" card

DOWN
1 Bloodhound's clue
2 Bounty rival
3 Paradise
4 Vikings' tongue
5 Wall-to-wall people, e.g.
6 "Fee fie fo —!"
7 Frock
8 Mediterranean resort area
9 Cloudy
10 Logical
11 Initial stake
16 Filly's brother
20 Make up your mind
23 Do something
24 Doo follower
25 Cold weather garment
27 Arthur or Lillie
29 Wrestling victory
30 Took a meeting
32 They tend furnaces
34 "I'd like to thank the — ..."
37 Shock partner
39 Basin accessory
42 Blizzard
44 Type of battery
45 Jett or Baez
46 Competent
48 Part of a Batsuit
49 Otherwise
50 Coaster
53 By way of

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	J	A	R	■	B	A	R	■	G	R	F	W
L	U	L	J	■	E	G	O	■	R	O	J	E
G	R	E	E	K	G	O	D	■	E	A	R	L
A	Y	F	■	H	O	G	■	S	Y	N	O	D
■	■	■	G	A	I	■	W	I	G	■	■	■
S	A	L	O	N	■	K	E	R	O	U	A	C
A	L	S	O	■	H	I	E	■	O	R	C	A
W	A	D	D	L	E	D	■	I	S	L	E	T
■	■	■	G	E	M	■	O	D	E	■	■	■
S	H	I	R	T	■	O	W	L	■	D	J	G
H	A	D	J	I	■	G	O	N	E	G	I	R	L
A	L	O	E	■	O	N	E	■	E	A	S	E
W	O	I	F	■	B	A	D	■	F	I	A	N

Yesterday's answer 12-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Seyfried, 29; Holly Marie Combs, 41; Brendan Fraser, 46; Julianne Moore, 54.

Happy Birthday: Focusing on self-improvement will build confidence and bring about worthwhile changes. Put more energy into your everyday routine. Once you get up to maximum speed, you will discover how easy it is to take care of business. Learning will be your greatest asset, so listen carefully and incorporate whatever fits into your lifestyle. Subtle moves will help you avoid interference. Your numbers are 8, 11, 20, 26, 31, 35, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Show everyone what you have to offer. Presenting your talents will attract new possibilities. Travel plans or long-distance communication will lead to a closer relationship with someone special. Think fast, act responsibly and you will get your way. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't get involved in joint money ventures. Do your best to stay on top of whatever job you've been given. Strive to stabilize your position. Stick to basics and don't get sidetracked by someone who is indulgent. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Playful actions could lead to positive personal changes. You can make home improvements as long as you budget wisely and leave enough money for something that improves your love life. Added discipline will help you establish your goals. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep your wits about you when dealing with money matters. Fast-talking sales pitches can be mesmerizing and lead to an impulsive purchase you will regret. Problems with instructions and competitive peers can be expected. Proceed with caution. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make subtle personal changes and you will win the support you need to press ahead with your goals. Love is highlighted and playful interaction with someone special will bring you closer together. Beware of a false impression regarding someone's assets. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get into the swing of things. Take part in community events or delve into your family background and traditions. Someone you live with is likely to be unpredictable. Watch family spending carefully. Shop around and you'll find a bargain. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Participation and short trips will lead to satisfying personal changes. The ideas resulting from what you see and hear will not be immediately understood by everyone, but can lead to new ideas and solutions. You can make a difference if you try. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Practice minimalism and avoid feelings of regret. Venture down a path that offers something different from what you are accustomed to seeing, doing and hearing. Let your intuition guide you. Stick close to the people who have always been there for you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Using force should be ruled out. You will accomplish more if you are witty, playful and willing to be a team player. Positive changes at home will result in praise as well as personal comfort. Love will blossom if you are attentive. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make personal changes that will ensure comfort and affordability. A show of emotion is not necessarily a sign of weakness. Share your thoughts and resolve issues that have been weighing you down mentally and physically. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put more effort into how you earn a living. Don't shy away from raising your awareness of what's going on in your industry, community or economy. Pick up skills that are compatible with the changing marketplace. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't make assumptions. Get the facts before you make a statement or a decision. Look for opportunities to address a concern you have as well as earn a little cash. Use your ingenuity and be true to your beliefs. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are quick, adaptable and inventive. You are an explorer and an adventurer.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	9			1	4	2	7
3			5		8			9
1			7					5
9			3					8
	2	4	8				5	
			1				4	
			2			1		
			9			7		
	6	8				5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	3	7	1	9	4	8	2	6
1	4	2	7	6	8	3	9	5
8	6	9	2	3	5	4	7	1
9	2	3	8	5	1	6	4	7
7	5	4	3	2	6	1	8	9
6	1	8	9	4	7	5	3	2
2	8	1	6	7	3	9	5	4
3	9	5	4	1	2	7	6	8
4	7	6	5	8	9	2	1	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RICHARD KIEL (1939-2014) Solution: 12 letters

T	I	O	R	T	E	D	N	O	B	S	E	M	A	J
C	H	R	I	S	T	O	P	H	E	R	D	L	C	B
C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	D	L	I	W	E	T	E
H	L	A	N	S	L	E	I	N	A	D	G	V	O	N
E	L	A	P	K	P	P	E	N	N	R	S	O	R	N
T	Y	H	Y	(L)	B	E	E	A	O	E	H	N	S	E
U	E	Y	G	(L)	G	I	L	E	I	F	C	I	E	T
O	M	S	W	(A)	J	Y	G	V	E	I	T	L	L	T
B	A	T	H	(T)	E	D	O	R	E	N	I	F	O	S
A	G	E	C	N	R	M	O	I	Y	N	W	A	R	Y
T	O	R	S	A	L	O	S	U	M	E	S	L	K	E
S	E	I	H	I	M	P	G	U	S	J	N	L	L	K
U	D	C	F	A	Y	E	R	E	D	I	R	O	U	N
O	I	A	D	A	W	S	O	N	R	O	R	E	H	O
R	V	L	O	O	D	I	K	S	E	S	O	O	M	M

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Actor, Bennett, Cameos, Children, Christopher, Clay, Daniels, Dawson, Detroit, Diane, Disneyland, Eegah, Fall, Faye, Film, Gus, Guy, Honey, Hulk, Hysterical, I Spy, James Bond, Jaws, Jennifer, Monkeys, Moore, Moose, Movies, Novel, Pale, Richard George, Rider, Rogers, Roles, Roustabout, Skidoo, So Fine, Switch, Tall, Think Big, Video Game, Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Miramax Films

Purchase **Treasury 15 & Treasury 16** in time for the holidays! Order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. (Each contains 130 puzzles.)

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1 Supervisor: $6.05/hr. College degree and at least 3 years' experience as a supervisor in a grocery store required. Email resume to dolim@hanmisaipan.com.

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1 Operations Manager: $6.50/hr. At least three years of managerial experience in auto repair shop operations required. Email resume to grace@hanmisaipan.com.

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1 Restaurant Manager (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 2 years' managerial experience in a restaurant specializing in Korean cuisine required.

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $6.05/hr. At least 2 years' experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com.

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1 Manager: $6.05/hr. 3 years' experience required.

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2015

Opening date: November 17, 2014 **Closing date: December 5, 2014**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

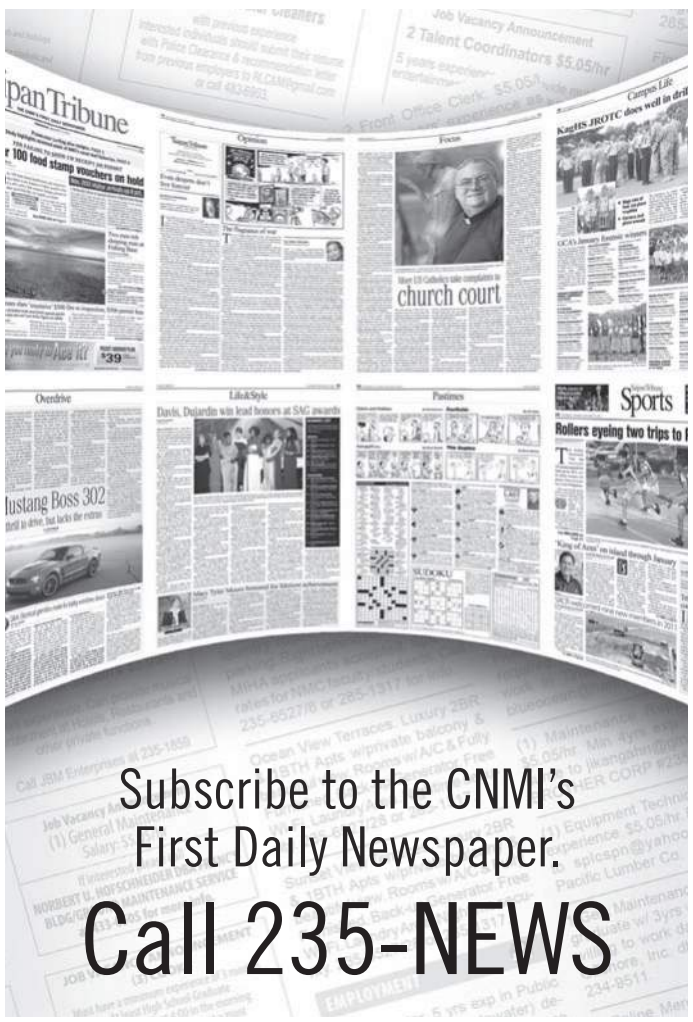
Position: (1) Staff Engineer (Saipan)
(1) Executive/Board Secretary

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than 4:30 p.m., December 5, 2014.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA HR Administrator Ms. Rita Omar, by email at rita.omar@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director



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Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Dolphins rally, beat Jets on late field goal

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The Miami Dolphins found the right formula to stay in the AFC playoff race: Simply let the Jets run the ball all night, and wait for New York to make mistakes.

It worked effectively in an old-fashioned - some might say dull - slugfest.

Caleb Sturgis' third field goal, from 26 yards with 1:57 remaining, gave Miami (7-5) a comeback 16-13 victory over its archrival.

New York (2-10) rushed for 277 yards on 49 carries, but made enough key errors in the second half to lose. The Dolphins remained a factor in the wild-card race thanks to special teams; rookie Jarvis Landry's eight receptions; Lamar Miller's 4-yard TD run early in the fourth quarter; and plenty of defense when the Jets needed to pass.

New York's Geno Smith threw only 13 times, fewest in the NFL this season, and gained 49 yards. The usually reliable Nick Folk missed two field goals.

All of that offset a season high on the ground as Chris Johnson had his best performance for the Jets with 105 yards.

"We had to draw a line in the dirt. No more," Dolphins defensive end Cameron Wake said of his team's stinginess after halftime. "We came out in the second half scheme-wise the same, but guys played the way they're supposed to play."

Miami Dolphins tight end Dion Sims (80) is tripped up by New York Jets inside linebacker David Harris (52) during the second quarter of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Sturgis also made field goals of 43 and 44 yards.

"Can't believe we're 2-10," Jets coach Rex Ryan said, shaking his head and pausing. "It's a joke."

After trailing most of the way, Miami tied it on Miller's run with 10:24 remaining. That brought the loudest cheers of the night; thousands of Dolphins fans at MetLife Stadium braved the wet, windy conditions.

Jets problems with penalties on special teams hurt them all night, and a holding call against Saalim Hakim set up the Dolphins at New York's 39 on the tying drive. On the winning possession, backup tight end Dion Sims had catches of 18 and 17 yards.

The Jets kept pounding the ball effectively. They even got into field goal position after Miami made it 13-13. But Koa Misi's sack pushed New York back to the Miami 27 and Folk missed wide left for the second time. Folk had made 18 of 20 entering the game.

That's the way the Jets' season has gone, of course.

"I feel sick," Ryan said. "We can't buy a win."

Early on, Greg Salas, with his fourth team in four pro seasons, scored his first career touchdown. But the receiver didn't get it through the air, instead scoring on a well-conceived reverse on which the Dolphins had no one close to him until he reached the 2. He dived into the end zone to cap an 85-yard drive, but that ended his night; Salas hurt a hamstring.

Sturgis missed a 43-yard field goal on the next possession for Miami, further boosting New York's confidence. The Jets took the ball into Dolphins territory for the third successive series, and got more points on Folk's 40-yard field goal.

As New York kept grinding away on the ground - it had 210 yards rushing in the opening half - it also ate up the clock. But Folk missed from 48 yards and Miami took advantage on Sturgis' 43-yard field goal to end the half.

Sturgis added his 44-yarder to start the second half, and Folk followed with a 45-yarder that bounced off the crossbar and through, making it 13-6.

Then came two huge plays that led to, well, nothing.

Dion Jordan partially blocked Ryan Quigley's punt, resulting in a 6-yard kick to the New York 41. It was the second straight week an opponent got a piece of a Quigley punt.

On the next play, though, Miller bobbled Ryan Tannehill's short pass and the ball squirted into cornerback Darrin Walls' hands. Walls slipped, got up and returned the interception 25 yards to the Dolphins 30. But Wake got a sack - he leads Miami with 9 1-2 - and that forced a punt.

"Scratch, claw, bite, kick, whatever you have to do make a play and win," Wake said.

SIDEBAR

Rams: Players will not be disciplined for gesture

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The St. Louis Rams and the NFL will not discipline the five players who stood with their hands raised in a show of solidarity with Ferguson protesters before Sunday's game.

Rams coach Jeff Fisher said Monday that it was his players' "choice to exercise their free speech," but he would not comment further on their actions.

"It's my personal opinion, I firmly believe, that it's important that I keep sports and politics separate," Fisher said. "I'm a head coach. I'm not a politician, an activist or an expert on societal issues, so I'm going to answer questions about the game."

Fisher did say he plans to talk with the players, who are all black, but those conversations will remain confidential.

Jared Cook, Kenny Britt, Chris Givens, Stedman Bailey and Tavon Austin made the "Hands up. Don't Shoot!" gesture protesters in Ferguson - a suburb of St. Louis - have been using since a grand jury did not indict police officer Darren Wilson over the Aug. 9 shooting of Michael Brown, who was black. Some witnesses said Brown had his hands up before being shot by officer Wilson. Wilson, who is white, told the grand jury that he shot Brown in self-defense.

The players' made their show of support before running onto the field during pregame introductions.

Later Sunday, the St. Louis Police Officer's Association issued a statement demanding the players be disciplined and the NFL to issue an apology.

The NFL responded with a one-sentence statement Monday from spokesman Brian McCarthy: "We respect and understand the concerns of all individuals who have expressed views on this tragic situation."

Fisher did say Rams Chief Operating Officer Kevin Demoff spoke with local law enforcement about the gesture. He declined to elaborate on the discussion.

"They will not be disciplined by the club nor will they be disciplined by the National Football League," Fisher said of his players.

After the Rams' 52-0 rout of Oakland, the players said they meant no disrespect by their show of support.

"We just understand that it's a big tragedy and we hope something positive comes out of it," Bailey said, following his five catch 100-yard performance.

Added Cook: "We help build up the people around this community daily with our visiting schools and talking to kids, so coming out and showing that we're unified with the rest of them, it was key to us."

Meanwhile, a day before a Senate hearing on domestic violence he will not attend, the head of the NFL Players Association said the union is establishing an eight-member commission to advise it on the issue.

In a letter sent Monday to Sen. Jay Rockefeller, the West Virginia Democrat who chairs the Senate Commerce Committee, NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith wrote that "when these matters are left solely to the NFL, the process is mismanaged and often the end result has not been able to withstand outside review."

Rockefeller's committee is holding a hearing Tuesday about domestic violence in professional sports, with representatives of the NFL, NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball scheduled to testify. Officials from the basketball, hockey and baseball unions are also scheduled to appear.

Smith told Rockefeller that "long-scheduled overseas travel prevented" the NFLPA from participating Tuesday.

Domestic violence has become a main topic across the sports landscape in recent months, particularly in light of the case of former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice.

He punched his then-fiancee - now wife - in a casino elevator and originally was suspended by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell for two games, then barred indefinitely after video of the fight emerged. Eventually, though, that second punishment was erased by an arbitrator when Rice appealed.

In the NBA, Charlotte Hornets forward Jeffery Taylor was suspended for 24 games without pay in November after pleading guilty to misdemeanor domestic violence assault and malicious destruction of hotel property.

Smith met last week with Goodell to discuss the league's personal conduct policy.

Mariners, Cruz nearing contract

SEATTLE (AP)—The Mariners are on the verge of landing the right-handed slugger they were seeking for the middle of their batting order.

Free agent slugger Nelson Cruz and Seattle are nearing agreement on a contract, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Monday. The pair spoke on the condition of anonymity because the deal had not been finalized and was still pending a physical.

El Caribe in the Dominican Republic first reported the agreement, saying it was worth $57 million over for four years.

Seattle did not comment.

Cruz led the major leagues with 40 home runs last season and had 108 RBIs for Baltimore, which signed him to an $8 million, one-year deal. He served a 50-game suspension in 2013 for violations of the major league drug agreement in relation to the sport's Biogenesis investigation.

He likely will bat behind fellow Dominican star Robinson Cano, who will be starting the second season of a $240 million, 10-year contract.

Cruz did not accept a $15.3 million qualifying offer from the Orioles. Seattle would forfeit its first-round draft pick, the 19th overall selection. Baltimore would get an additional pick between the first and second rounds.

Seattle also has a $100 million, seven-year deal with third baseman Kyle Seager that awaits completion.

The Mariners have among the top pitching staffs in the AL but missed the postseason by one game last season due to offensive shortcomings.

Cruz would fit the need, even if Seattle is taking a risk with such a significant commitment to a 34-year-old who has never posted big numbers at Safeco Field. Cruz has hit at least 22 homers in every season since 2009 and has been an All-Star three times. Cruz's .271 batting average and .525 slugging percentage last season with Baltimore was his highest since 2010 with Texas.

Cruz has hit .240 with nine homers and 19 RBIs in 52 games in Seattle - better than his .185 career average in Oakland and .218 in Anaheim.

Seattle hoped last season that Corey Hart could return from knee troubles and add right-handed pop to an overwhelmingly left-handed batting order but he hit .203 with six homers and 21 RBIs in 68 games. Seattle also brought back switch-hitting designated hitter Kendrys Morales at midseason, but he could not match his 2013 production.

According to STATS, Inc., the Mariners' .332 slugging percentage by right-handed batters this year was the lowest for an AL team in a non-shortened season since the 1979 Oakland Athletics.

Lawson late jumper lifts Nuggets over Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Ty Lawson had 15 points and made a double-pump jumper to beat the shot clock with 29.6 seconds left that boosted the Denver Nuggets over the Utah Jazz 103-101 in a charged atmosphere Monday night.

The game heated up after Arron Afflalo was ejected and the Jazz stormed back from a 22-point deficit to tie the game in the final minutes.

Lawson, who also had 12 assists, made the game-winner from the left wing between two Jazz defenders.

Gordon Hayward was blocked and Trey Burke missed a potential go-ahead 3-pointer on the other end before Darrell Arthur clinched the game with two free throws with 4.2 seconds remaining. Alec Burks dunk at the buzzer completing the scoring.

Wilson Chandler scored 10, Afflalo had 14 and Arthur added 12 for the Nuggets, who have won eight of their last 10 games.

Hayward scored 25 points, Burks had 22 and Burke chipped in 18, but Utah's losing streak hit six games - the longest skid since March 10-19 last season.

Trailing 90-86, Burks was driving full-speed to the basket midway through the fourth quarter when Afflalo clotheslined the Jazz guard. The hard foul sparked a shoving match with Enes Kanter at the center of it all protecting Burks, who was already nursing a sore shoulder.

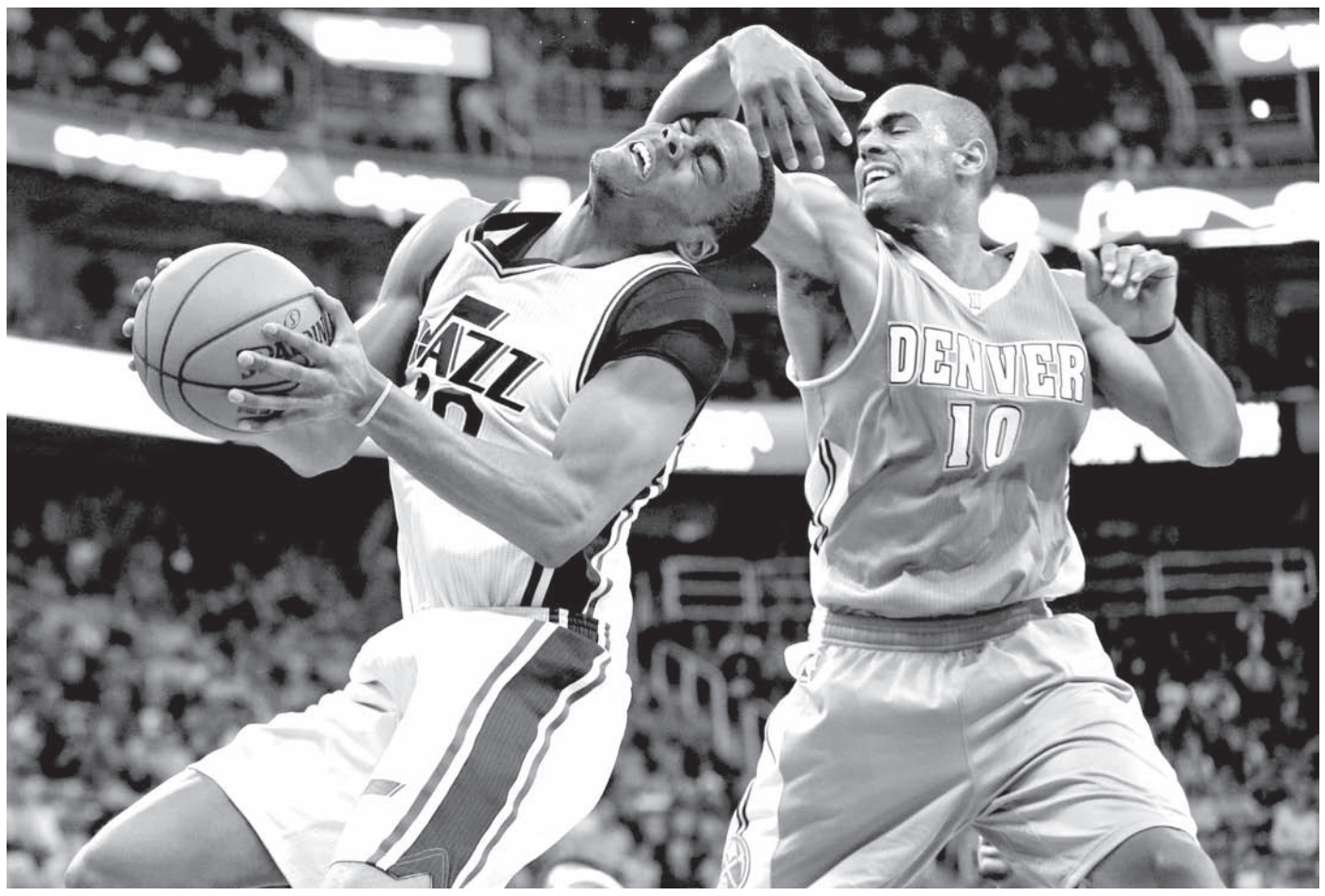
After a lengthy officials' conference, Afflalo was ejected for a flagrant-two foul for hitting Burks in the side of the head. Afflalo and Burks pointed at each other and exchanged words before he left the court.

The Nuggets were rolling along with an 80-67 lead late in the third quarter before the Jazz extended their defense and ran at every opportunity. Utah caught Denver at 83-83 on a thunderous alley-oop jam by Rudy Gobert.

Denver led 24-23 late in the first quarter before going on a 22-4 run. Darrell Arthur had two 3-pointers to fuel the run and then J.J. Hickson capped the surge with a three-point play to make it 46-27 with 6:45 before halftime.

The Nuggets flummoxed the Jazz on both sides of the court for most of the game. Denver used quick passing and pinpoint shooting to complement pressure defense that forced Utah out of its preferred sets and into 11 first-half turnovers.

Without defensive anchor Derrick Favors, who missed the game with flu-like symptoms, the Jazz looked powerless to stop the Nuggets forays to the basket until Gobert asserted himself and sparked the Jazz comeback.



Utah Jazz's Alec Burks, left, is fouled by Denver Nuggets' Arron Afflalo in the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, in Salt Lake City. The Nuggets won, 103-101.

Denver's resurgence has been based on improved defense. The Nuggets improved to 7-0 when holding opponents to 101 points or less and appear to be an entirely different team than the one that lost six straight in early November.

Clippers 125, Timberwolves 101

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin and J.J. Redick each scored 23 points before sitting out the fourth quarter, and the Los Angeles Clippers returned from the most successful road trip in franchise history with a 127-101 rout of the Minnesota Timberwolves on Monday night.

DeAndre Jordan had 13 rebounds and 11 points for the Clippers, who won their fifth in a row following their 6-1 trip and beat Minnesota for the 10th straight time.

Shabazz Muhammad had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who beat the Lakers 120-119 at Staples Center just three nights earlier with the help of a missed 3-point shot by Kobe Bryant at the final horn.

Andrew Wiggins, the first overall pick in the draft, scored all 14 of his points in the first half. Ex-Clippers point guard Mo Williams, playing for his third different club in three seasons since leaving Los Angeles, had seven points and seven assists.

The Clippers dominated the final three quarters against an injury-riddled Minnesota squad that was missing three of its starters. Leading scorer Kevin Martin missed his sixth game with a fractured right wrist that will sideline him indefinitely.

Center Nikola Pekovic, who had a career-high 34 points against the Clippers last December at Staples Center, sat out his seventh straight game with a sprained right wrist. Point guard Ricky Rubio has missed 11 games with a sprained left ankle and backup center Ronny Turiaf has missed eight games with a sore right hip.

Redick scored 17, Griffin and reserve center Spencer Hawes each scored 11 to give the Clippers a 65-50 halftime lead. They trailed by six after a three-point play by Muhammad 16 seconds into the second quarter. But Hawes ignited a 25-4 run with a pair of 3-point shots and Griffin capped it with a pair of free throws to give Los Angeles a 56-41 lead with 3:16 left in the half.

The Clippers broke it open with a 23-3 surge during a 6:20 span of the third. Coach Doc Rivers sat all of his starters in the fourth as did Timberwolves coach Flip Saunders.

Wizards 107, Heat 86

In Washington, with his Wizards leading the Heat by 15 after two quarters, 37-year-old Paul Pierce implored his younger teammates to put the game away.

"Well, Paul had a joke at halftime," said point guard John Wall. "He said: `Let me get a rest. Let's get it to like 25, so I can take a break.'"

Wizards coach Randy Wittman offered a simple message, too, asking his players to focus at one particular end of the court.

"I said, `It's the first team that really comes in and turns the screws defensively,'" Wittman said.

Both Pierce and Wittman got what they wanted. Wall ran the offense to perfection, scoring 18 points and 13 assists, Washington held Miami to 0 for 12 on 3-point tries in the second half, and the Wizards beat the Heat 107-86 on Monday night.

"Probably our best game, from start to finish," said Wittman, whose team improved to 11-5.

Rasual Butler scored 23, and Marcin Gortat added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards, who never trailed and led by 21 in the first half and 25 in the second.

"Whether it's the schemes, whether it's 1-on-1, they picked us apart," said Chris Bosh, who led Miami with 21 points.

Dwyane Wade had 20 in his second game back from an injured right hamstring. A night earlier, Wade returned after missing seven games and scored 27 points in a victory at New York.

Wade offered a frank assessment of Miami's failure to slow down Washington.

"I don't think we've gotten to the defense we've wanted all year," Wade said. "We're still fairly new; a lot of the guys are still confused at what we're trying to do."

Spurs 109, 76ers 103

In Philadelphia, Kawhi Leonard scored a game-high 26 points and had a crucial three-point play in the final minute to help the San Antonio Spurs defeat the winless 76ers 109-103, extending Philadelphia's franchise-worst losing streak to start the season to 0-17.

The Spurs (13-4) played without stars Tim Duncan (rest) and Tony Parker (shoulder). Even without the duo's more than 31 points out of the lineup, San Antonio had little trouble dispatching Philadelphia. Aron Baynes scored 15 points and Manu Ginobili and Cory Joseph each added 14 for San Antonio, which won its eighth straight. Leonard also had 10 rebounds while tying a career-high in points.

Michael Carter-Williams had 24 points and 11 rebounds and Alexey Shved chipped in 19 points for Philadelphia.

The 76ers also were shorthanded, as leading scorer Tony Wroten (knee) missed his second straight game and rookie first-round pick Nerlens Noel (hip) sat after getting injured in Sunday's practice.

Philadelphia became just the fourth team in league history to open a season with 17 losses, joining the 1998-99 Clippers (0-17), 1988-89 Heat (0-17) and the 2009-10 Nets (0-18). The 76ers can tie the Nets for the worst start in NBA history on Wednesday at Minnesota with a potential chance to break the record at home on Friday against Oklahoma City.

Philadelphia made a late run at the Spurs, pulling within 101-96 with 1 minute, 33 seconds remaining on Henry Sims' layup. But Leonard put the game away by converting a three-point play to make it 104-96 with 42.7 left.

SIDEBAR

Durant's Thunder return can't come soon enough

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Kevin Durant's 2014-15 debut can't come soon enough.

Oklahoma City teammate Russell Westbrook made his triumphant return in a 105-78 victory against the New York Knicks on Friday night, and the reigning NBA MVP isn't too far behind. That's a blessing for a Thunder group with title aspirations that ranked among the league's worst teams through 16 games.

Westbrook scored 32 points on 17 shots to go along with eight assists and seven rebounds in just 24 minutes against the Knicks, showing no ill effects from the broken hand he suffered nine minutes into an Oct. 30 game against the Los Angeles Clippers. Just as the three-time All-Star point returned within the team's six-week projected recovery time, Durant also appears on schedule before his eight weeks are up.

In fact, he could make his first appearance of the season against the New Orleans Pelicans on Tuesday. While Oklahoma City's coaching staff and players didn't let any lineup adjustments slip just yet, Durant completed his first full practice without incident on Monday, according to multiple media reports.

OKC's injuries weren't limited to Westbrook and Durant. Only a handful of Thunder players have appeared in all 17 games this season. As a result, they fell to 4-12 and last place in the Northwest Division. Friday's win over the Knicks leapfrogged the Minnesota Timberwolves, and Durant's return offers hope Oklahoma City can climb its way out of the Western Conference basement and into playoff contention.

It won't be easy. In order to get to 49 wins, which barely got the Dallas Mavericks an eighth seed in the playoffs last season, the Thunder must play .682 basketball (45-21) for four and a half months. Considering they finished last season 46-20, it's certainly achievable. With a win over the Knicks in hand and games against the Philadelphia 76ers, Detroit Pistons and Milwaukee Bucks after Durant's potential return against the Pelicans, OKC could find itself in playoff contention before a nationally broadcast Dec. 11 showdown opposite fellow former MVP LeBron James' suddenly surging Cleveland Cavaliers.

But this is a Thunder group that's been to the conference finals in three of the past four years, so they're not exactly used to heading out on the road as an eighth seed come April. In order to consider hosting a playoff series in the spring, they'll need to play closer to .773 basketball (51-15) down the stretch.

Taro returns to top Rota Blue

Last year's runner-up Shirato Taro of Japan returned and this time topped the 21st Annual Rota Blue Triathlon held last month.

The 48-year-old Taro finished the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40K bike, and 10K run in 2:14:06 to beat Okada Takashi (2:16:14) and Hariki Yasutaka (2:27:21) in the men's division. Leading the women's division was 34-year-old Sakai Emi (2:19:49), who also placed third overall. Kiyomoto Miyuki (3:02:52) and Miwa Yoko (3:04:53) came in at second and third in the division. The 68-year-old Sakaguchi Toshihiko was the oldest competitor in the event, timing in at 4:43:34.

Eighty-two triathletes from Japan registered for the race on Rota, with 62 participating on race day.

In the Half Ironman event (2K swim, 90K bike, and 21K run), 45-year-old Sakai Osamu (5:00:26) dominated the competition in the men's division. Osamu was followed by Ota Tomofumi (5:42:42) and Masuda Keisuke (5:45:30). In the women's division, 28-year-old Oishida Kazuma came in at first with her 6:16:27, followed closely by Ohashi Yukiko (7:03:00).

The event was sponsored by Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan, and the Rota Mayor's Office.

"The community of Rota always offers an outstanding welcome to athletes for the annual Rota Blue Triathlon," said MVA community projects manager Martin Duenas. "Registration was lower this season due to the limited number of flights available to ship bikes to the island, but we hope for a better turnout next year."

The triathlon was also supported by Rota Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Dept. of Public Safety Traffic and Boating Safety Unit, Dept. of Finance, Rota Resort, Bay Breeze, Division of Youth Services, Joe Santos, Northern Marianas College CREES, Community and Cultural Affairs, Blue Palm, Mark Michael, System Clinic, JSBM, Aqua Dive Shop, Tri Sports, Serena, Beato Calvo, Vince Calvo, and Rubin.

The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is one of four major triathlon events held in the CNMI. The three others are XTERRA Saipan Championship, Tagaman Triathlon, and the Tinian Turquoise Blue. ***(PR)***

Triathletes race in the 1.5K swim leg of last month's Rota Blue Triathlon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Boys caging, girls volleyball, football next in MISO season

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization is now working on the schedules for the respective seasons of the boys high school basketball and girls high school volleyball and football.

MISO member schools have until Friday, Dec. 5, to inform executive director Nick Gross of their intention to join each league.

Varsity (grades 9 to 12, with 12-member roster); junior varsity (grades 9 to 11, with 15-player roster) and 9th graders only (15-man roster) are qualified to join in the boys basketball league.

The girls volleyball will have varsity (grades 9-12, with 15-member roster) and JV (grades 9 to 11, with 15-player roster). The girls football will also have varsity (grades 9 to 12, with 18-player roster) and JV (grades 9 to 11, with 11-member roster).

All schools competing in each league are required to submit their student-athletes' most recent grades with a minimum grade point average of 2.25, latest sports physical, and the parents/guardian waiver form to be eligible to compete this season.

Only varsity teams will play for the season-ending tournaments, which will have a double-elimination round format. Organizers are also finalizing the dates and will announce them later.

A coaches and officials technical meeting will be scheduled before the Christmas break or not later this month.

Marianas High School swept all three events last year: boys basketball and girls volleyball and football.

Early this season, MHS topped the girls basketball event for the fifth straight year after a 78-67 win over Mt. Carmel School, while Saipan International School clinched its third consecutive crown in the boys' volleyball, winning against Grace Christian Academy.

Hustlers, Voyagers to vie for Tuesday billiards crown

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Smoke Pub Saipan TV Hustlers gave the Jokers IT&E Voyagers a free ride to their final matchup after beating the latter's sister team, Str8 Shooters, in the Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League.

The Hustlers foiled the Str8 Shooters' chances of clinching the No. 2 ranking after an 8-7 decision last week, giving the Voyagers, who won by default against the Smoke Pub Lancheras, the second championship berth.

The Hustlers finished the elimination round with a league-best 151-74 record or one win ahead of the Voyagers' 150-75 slate.

The Hustlers hosted the visiting Voyagers at the Smoke Pub bar in Garapan for the battle for the first and second places. Matches were being played at press time.

The Str8 Shooters settled for third (141-84) and were battling Jonny's Crazy 8 (109-116) for the third place trophy last night.

The Crazy 8 ended its season with an 8-7 decision over Sang&D'Gang in the other featured match.

The Sang&D'Gang (91-134) and the Lancheras (33-192), both supported by Smoke Pub, complete the standings.

Meanwhile, the finals between the Route33 Armatech Hustlers and the Smoke Pub Magic 8 Ball in the Thursday League will be played tomorrow.

The Hustlers finished the season with the league's best record of 126-84, followed closely by the Magic 8 Ball's 125-85 card. The Jokers Homboyz (122-88) and Wild Bills (111-99) will clash for the third place honors.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the IT&E Voyagers and the Jokers Str8 Shooters pose for a group photo after an elimination round game earlier in the Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League.

THE CRANK

From Page 28

his second defense of the 145-pound belt after snatching the title against Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez in Trech Warz 15: Supremacy on Dec. 16, 2011. He made a successful defense by beating challenger Jessie Fasi (TKO) two years ago.

Ernie Santos of High Blood Pressure takes on Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas for the flyweight strap, while Will "The Kill" Chope of Team Juggernaut faces Team Ultimate Martial Arts' Jose "Young Blood" Ramirez for the lightweight crown.

Team Guam Muay Thai's Rocky "Rock Star" Quichocho takes on Tiger "Bukake" Yatsui of Team ONI in one of the 10 undercard bouts that will have Trench Tech's Jimmy Kaipat opening the event when he meets Don2Scrap MCMMA's Jadrien Camacho.

In the other undercard bouts, Team Zalaka's Deny Jepen collides with Choke Chain's Rai Norita; Dino "NHB" Cruz of Guam Muay Thai takes on LJ "Makpo" George of Garage Tech; Bradlee Manalo faces Jonathan "Outlaw" Camacho; Mike Picini meets Ben Flores; Allan "The Silver Bullet" Aguon challenges Lenny "The Machine Gun" Sablan; Jones Langu duels John Tudela; Eric "Gatti" Gatman squares off against "Shiska" Bob Alvarez; and Paul Ayuyu of Team Tinian tries to avenge his two losses in last month's Art of War 9 against Jordan "The Machine Gun" Manglona.

Fighters will have their weigh-in on Dec. 11, from 5 to 7pm at GIG in Garapan.

Tickets before the event are priced at $25 for general admission and $40 for VIP. The prices will be $30 for GA and $50 for VIP on the day of the event.

For more information, call Trench Tech organizer Cuki Alvarez at 483-4MMA (4662).

RAI

From Page 28

6-4, 7-5.

In the lower bracket semis, Rai also took only two sets to top Eugene Park, 6-4, 6-2. Rai made it to the semis after defeating Brian Kim, 6-2, 6-1, while Park advanced following his hard-earned victory over Jeffrey Seo, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

With his loss to Rai in the Final Four, Park dropped to the loser's bracket where the latter also fell to Woo in the battle for third place, 4-8. Three other consolation matches were scheduled last Sunday with Sean Lee settling for fifth place after beating Seo, 11-9, and Kim landing at seventh with his victory via default against Allan Lee. Allan Lee later showed up in his match versus Kang, who clinched the eighth spot after recording an 8-3 victory last Sunday.

Meanwhile, after falling short in his title bid in the boys U12 singles, Woo hit his target in the boys U10 singles.

Woo ruled the youngest age group contest after downing Kang in the finals, 8-3. Woo marched into the finals following an 8-1 win over Jae Yun Jun, who made it to the semis after a 8-2 victory over Anthony Gregoire in the upper half of the bracket.

In the lower half, Kang drew a bye in the first round and then eliminated Eu Bin Park, 8-3, to set a finals date with Woo. Eun Bin Park earlier edged Seung Jun Paek, 8-5, to arrange a semis duel against Kang.

NMI

From Page 28

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation president John Hirsh. Angel De Jesus and David Boyer completed the delegation, but instead of competing they are attending the event's youth program (seminar), which will also run from Dec. 3 to 7.

Besides Villacrusis' 100m breaststroke swim, nine other events are also lined up in the opening day of the meet. The list includes the men's 200m freestyle, 100m butterfly, 100m backstroke, and 4x100m freestyle relay and the women's 50m breaststroke, 200m butterfly, 100m backstroke, 400m individual medley, and 4x200m freestyle.

Tomorrow, there will nine events and the CNMI will join two races. Sugie will compete in the qualifying swim in the 50m freestyle, while Chentsova will race in the 800m freestyle. Both events are scheduled for 9:30am. Semifinals and finals races are set for 6pm.

For the third day of the competition, Chentsova will have her second and last event—the 400m freestyle—while in Day 4 this Saturday, both Sugie and Villacrusis will participate in the qualifying races in the 100m freestyle event.

The three CNMI swimmers are among the more than 1,000 athletes from 171 countries seeing action in the fourth edition of the short course event. Also included on the list is 11-time Olympic medallist and short course specialist Ryan Lochte of the U.S. team. Joining Lochte on the favored U.S. squad are fellow Olympic champions Breeja Larson and Conor Dwyer.

Other notable swimmers competing in the five-day tournament are Hungary's Katinka Hosszu, Daniel Gyurta, and Laszlo Cseh, South Africa's Chad Le Clos and Cameron Van Der Burgh, Lithuania's Ruta Meilutyte, Tunisia's Oussama Mellouli, Spain's Mireia Belmonte, and Denmark's Lotte Friis.

Meanwhile, the Aquatics Convention Doha 2014 is also being held in Qatar and it started last Saturday. Hirsh is the CNMI's representative to the convention and he also attended the FINA Congress. FINA president Dr. Julio C. Maglione and the secretary general of the Qatar Olympic Committee Sheik Saoud Al-Thani led the opening of the convention, while FINA executive director Cornel Marculescu facilitated the first day of the event.

2014 Commonwealth Football League Association Youth League

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ

Eastern Lightning (in maroon jerseys) and Southern Thunder players in action during the opening game of the 2014 Commonwealth Football League Association Youth League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

The Southern Thunder's Jeremy Agulto, 6, and Gaige Porras, 10, attempt to stop the Eastern Lightning's Donavin Ada, second left, while teammate Kimo Angailen looks on.

Matthew Kapileo, left, of the Eastern Lightning tries to get past two Southern Thunder defenders.

The Eastern Lightning's Matthew Kapileo, right, fails to catch the ball while being guarded by a Southern Thunder player.

The Eastern Lightning's Donavin Ada spins his way against two Eastern Lightning defenders.

The Southern Thunder's Matthew Reyes, left, intercepts a pass and slips past the defense of three Eastern Lightning players for a touchdown.

An Eastern Lightning player, partly hidden, attempts to tackle Franko Bundoc of the Southern Thunder.

The Southern Thunder's N-Nes Siech tries to tackle an Eastern Lightning player.

The Eastern Lightning's Matthew Kapileo, left, and a Southern Thunder player look at the ball.

Donavin Ada, left, tries to ward off an Eastern Lightning defender.

Dolphins rally, beat Jets on late field goal

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lawson late jumper lifts Nuggets over Jazz

PAGE 25

'The Crank' back for Trench Warz 18

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

PXC 42 PHOTO
Frank "The Crank" Camacho hits Keita Nakamura on the face during their bout in PXC 42 early this year at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

Frank "The Crank" Camacho returns to his roots when he enters the octagon once more as the featured main event in Trench Warz 18: Rock & Rumble set for Dec. 12 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Camacho, who started his mixed martial arts career with the Trench Tech gym almost a decade ago, will be facing Chinan MMA Korea's Jae Woong Kim in a 170-pound non-title bout.

Camacho was last featured in a Trench Tech fight card in Trench Warz 5: Return of the Octagon on Feb. 24, 2007 where he won by way of knockout over Nathan "The Butcher" Hanson in the 3:45 mark of the opening round.

That KO punch victory was part of the 25-year-old's eight-fight winning streak that also included debut triumphs over Fritz Rodriguez in the Universal Reality Combat Championship: Unstoppable on Dec. 2, 2006; John Ogo in Pacific Xtreme Combat 11: No Turning Back on April 13, 2007; and Carlos Eduardo Santos in Geran Haga: Blood Wars 2 on May 28, 2007.

Camacho, according to the MMA website sherdog.com, currently holds a 12-2 record with 9 KOs, 2 by decision and 1 via submission. His two losses are both by way of KO against Luigi Fioravanti in PXC 12: Settling the Score on July 12, 2007 and Caloy Baduria in URCC 11: Redemption on Nov. 25, 2007.

Kim, 21, is fresh from a technical KO loss to Donggyu Kim in Top FC 2 on May 30, 2014. He holds a 5-3 card with two of his wins by way of KO, while another two were via decision.

Meanwhile, three title fights are also featured in Trench Warz 18 with Roman "Boom" Alvarez as the headliner when he challenges featherweight champion Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig of Team Countershot.

Wusstig will be making

See THE CRANK on Page 26

Rai survives Elliot in extended finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Aditya Rai took the long route to the championship of the boys U12 singles division in the 6th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic as he needed three sets to beat Jamin Elliot last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

Rai drew first blood in the finale, notching a 6-3 win in the opening set, but failed to close out the title match early when Elliot came back swinging and escaping with a 6-4 triumph. In the deciding third set, the finalists went back-and-forth with Rai prevailing in the end, 7-5, to rule the nine-player field.

The boys U12 title showdown pitted the second-ranked player in the draw in Rai against the upset-minded Elliot, who stunned the No. 1 seed and 2012 U10 singles champion Sean Lee in the quarterfinals last Saturday, 6-1, 6-4. Before eliminating Lee, Elliot also won his first match in the tournament via straight sets against Daniel Kang last Friday, 6-2, 6-1.

With two victories under his belt, Elliot earned a semis date with Ji Min Woo, who drew a bye in the first round and advanced to the Final Four after ousting Allan Lee, 6-1, 6-3. Elliot went on to bag his third consecutive win in the opening week of the annual tournament after booting out Woo in the upper bracket semifinals,

See RAI on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Aditya Rai, left, and Jamin Elliot shake hands after their title match in the boys U12 singles event of the 6th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

NMI swimmers start bid in Worlds today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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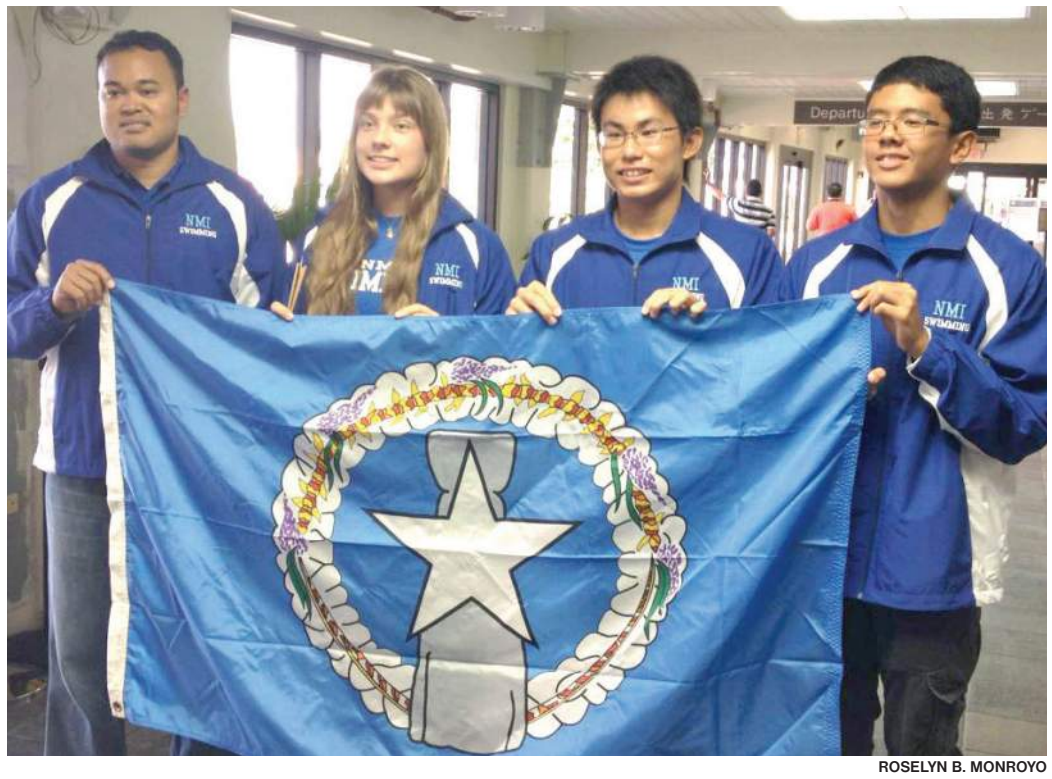
REPORTER

Christian Villacrusis kicks off the CNMI's bid in the 12th FINA World Swimming Championships (25M) today at the Hamad Aquatic Centre in Doha, Qatar.

Villacrusis is entered in the qualifying heat in the 100m breaststroke event, which is scheduled to start at 9:30am (4:30pm Saipan time). The Mt. Carmel School student is one of the three Commonwealth swimmers competing in the short course tournament that will run until Dec. 7. Saipan International School's Victoria Chentsova and Takumi Sugie are the two others.

The three CNMI swimmers left Saipan for Doha last Saturday and were joined in Qatar by coach Jacoby Winkfield and

See NMI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, coach Jacoby Winkfield, Victoria Chentsova, Takumi Sugie, and Christian VIllacrusis, pose for a photo before leaving Saipan for Qatar last Saturday to compete in the 12th FINA World Swimming Championships (25M) at the Hamad Aquatic Centre in Doha.